

ALAN COREN
Step forward Mr Impotent,
the only saviour of our
political life, page 16

FASHION
New York style:
neat, tidy and
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THE TIMES

WEDNESDAY APRIL 12 1995

No. 65,239

Gay group's target to be new Archbishop of York

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

Dr John Habgood, who retires in August, after his appointment was announced yesterday, he said: "My immediate instinct was to say no. It has taken me a little time to make the decision I have."

Dr Hope, who is three years younger than the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, will move to Lambeth Palace if Dr Carey, 59, retires, as church leaders expect, at 65.

Dr Hope's promotion will encourage clergy and laity who had been considering their position within the church, and will reassure traditionalists that they have a future within Anglicanism. It will also be welcomed as a sign that the church is refusing to be

intimidated by the campaigning tactics being used by groups such as Peter Tatchell's OutRage!, which forced Dr Hope to deny he was a homosexual but to admit that his sexuality was a "grey area".

Dr Hope said he had "given the matter much careful and prayerful consideration before agreeing to accept so awesome a responsibility and ministry in God's church". He made it clear that he had not known of his promotion when he decided to brief the media at his home in Westminster about the "seriously intimidating" letters he had received from OutRage!, urging him to admit to being gay.

"I made it very clear at the press conference which I called some four weeks ago the nature of my life and lifestyle and that I have led a single, celibate life that seems to me in accordance with what is set out in the House of Bishops statement *Issues in Human Sexuality*."

Continued on page 2, col 7

Anger over delays in fishing talks Canada ready for new clash with Spain

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS, MICHAEL HORNSBY AND NICHOLAS WATT

CANADA, Ireland and South Africa all threatened action against Spanish trawlersmen last night as European Union negotiators struggled to break a deadlock over fishing quotas in the North Atlantic.

The Canadian fisheries minister said that unless the EU agreed to a reduced catch off Newfoundland today, his country would take "appropriate measures" — a remark interpreted as a threat that Canadian warships would resume patrols outside the country's 200-mile zone.

At the same time, Ireland issued a blunt warning to Spanish fishermen not to fish illegally in the republic's waters, after two skippers and their vessels were detained by the Irish navy. And in Cape Town, another Spanish skipper and his crew were detained after an illegal "wall of death" gill net 23km long and three metres deep. "They ruin everything — fish, dolphins, everything," Rupert Grundling, a marine conservation inspector said. "These people just want to make money."

Fears of a repeat of the clashes seen in the North Atlantic last month grew as Canada voiced its impatience with the EU, which failed on Monday to ratify a share-out of Greenland halibut agreed by officials last week because Spain is holding out for more of the catch.

Yesterday, the Newfoundland premier, Clyde Wells, said: "The time has come to make a decision and move. If the European Community does not get Spain out of there within the next day or so, I believe Canada has to move to get Spain out of there." Brian Tobin, the fisheries minister, declared that, failing agreement, his country would take whatever measures were deemed appropriate to ensure the protection of the stock.

European and Canadian negotiators met for two hours in Brussels yesterday, but failed to break the deadlock. João Vale de Almeida, a senior Commission spokesman, complained: "We certainly cannot negotiate on the basis of an ultimatum."

Under last week's agreement, the EU and Canada will each be allowed to catch 10,000 tonnes of Greenland halibut a year. This is acceptable to every EU country but Spain, which is pressing for a share of 13,000 tonnes, almost half of the 27,000 tonnes that are to be caught. Spain has already caught nearly 7,000 tonnes off Newfoundland this year, and if the new quota were imposed, its trawlers would have to stop fishing in a month or so. Last year Spanish boats are estimated to have netted nearly 40,000 tonnes.

Jennifer Sloan, a Canadian spokeswoman in Brussels, insisted last night that the draft agreement could not be negotiated, although officials hinted

yesterday that Spain could be allowed to catch more this year if it accepted the lower ceiling thereafter.

The Canadians have garnered support from all over the world for their action against the Spanish. The High Commissioner to Britain was welcomed by a sea of maple leaf flags when he visited Newlyn in Cornwall yesterday, and the Canadian embassy in Dublin has received hundreds of requests for flags from Irish fishermen wanting to display solidarity.

Two Spanish skippers who were detained fishing off County Mayo on Monday are expected to appear in court this morning and Hugh Coveney, the Irish Minister for Defence and Marine, said last night: "I want to send out some very clear signals to anyone fishing illegally in our waters that we are not going to tolerate that."

Twelve fishery vessels, eight of them Spanish or Spanish-owned, have been detained by the Irish navy this year, compared with five in the same period last year. Ten of the 30 British registered boats prosecuted for fishing offences in British last year were Spanish-owned — a high proportion, considering that Spanish vessels account for about 80 of the 11,000 vessels registered in Britain. The boat detained in South Africa yesterday was South African owned with an all-Spanish crew.



Royce Frith, the Canadian High Commissioner, is almost lost in a sea of maple leaf flags as schoolchildren welcome him to Newlyn

Cornwall finds more flags for its new ally

By JOE JOSEPH

CANADIAN envoy causes traffic jams in Cornwall would have ranked among the world's more unlikely headlines until yesterday, when the Canadian High Commissioner descended on the village of Newlyn to thank trawlermen for supporting Canada in its fishing dispute with Spain.

With Canadian flags flapping from virtually every trawler, office, shop, and council building — extra supplies have been flown in to meet the demand — Royce Frith read the fishermen a letter from his Prime Minister, Jean Chrétien, saying: "The people of the West Country have long historic bonds with Canada. Bonds of family and bonds of history. You have just

shown that they are as strong today as they have ever been."

Mr Frith — decked out in an unconventional ensemble of navy chalk-stripe suit, floppy pink bow tie, and tweed countryman's hat — then made his tour of the harbour on a fork-lift truck, while aides handed out 125 flags signed by Canadian MPs to Newlyn skippers, many of whom were already sporting maple leaf T-shirts.

David Hicks, who dreamed up the idea of flying the Canadian flag, said he had never imagined the idea would prove so successful.

Cornish trawlermen have long chafed at the EU-permitted Spanish presence in British waters, and at their fishing methods, which they claim will destroy stocks. And yesterday, John Butterworth

of the Bideford Trawlermen's Association, said: "I consider it very important to give up a day's fishing to express our praise and thanks for the Canadians bringing this issue to the attention of the British Government and people. We are totally against the Common Fisheries Policy and believe we should manage our own stocks."

Michael Priest, a Canadian doctor seeking to emigrate to Cornwall, was dumbfounded at the sight of so many maple leaf flags. "The Canadians are most grateful for the support," he said. "The Spanish have been cheating. Everyone knows they have been cheating."

Translating that into diplomatic-speak, Mr Frith explained that Madrid's

reluctance to respond to concern about Spanish fishermen's practices came from the large capacity of the Spanish fishing industry. "Spain must do what Canada has done. That is, to accept the fact that there has been worldwide over-fishing, that the stock has got to be conserved for future generations and that there has got to be a way of enforcing that."

He hoped his Cornish trip would drum up support for Canada. "There's been quite a bit of movement on our side. We're hoping they'll show some on their side. They're going to have to budge. They're going to have to be flexible. Everyone else is."

Recorded crime figures fall again

Recorded crime in England and Wales fell the second year running in 1994 but the improvement was marred by a rise in violent and sexual offences, according to figures published yesterday. The Government said that the drop in reported crimes was a "testament to the hard work done by the police" — Page 6

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Aitken prepares to issue more writs

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND ALEXANDRA FREAN

JONATHAN AITKEN was last night poised to issue new writs in his crusade against media "lies" after an internal Whitehall memorandum strengthened his contention that he had been traduced over the arms-to-Iran affair.

As the Chief Secretary to the Treasury assumed folk hero status in the eyes of Tory MPs and activists bruised by a stream of media exposes, close associates said that he was almost certain to bring a libel action against *The Independent* over its claim that he had been a director of a company that breached the Gulf War weapons embargo during the late 1980s.

His determination to tackle *The Independent* as well as the *Guardian* has been enhanced by a document drawn up by Whitehall's command centre which lists all Government knowledge about arms sales to the Middle East. The unit was set up in the wake of the Scott inquiry.

The paper, from Nicholas Williams, a senior official at the Trade and Industry Department, strikes a blow at the heart of *The Independent's* stories by reporting that there is no evidence that BMARC, the company with which Mr Aitken was involved, ever sent



Topsy and Wayne pined on through the blazing heat and sandstorms of Merseyside

Topsy, Arabian for a night

By OUR DIARY STAFF

IT WAS hardly Lawrence of Arabia. The World in Action Monday night expose of the business affairs of Jonathan Aitken, entitled *Jonathan of Arabia*, kept returning to an atmospheric scene with a camel and rider being led through desert sandstorms.

The prosaic truth is that the scene was filmed in one day on Merseyside with a camel called Topsy hired from Andover in Hampshire.

In an attempt to uncover the business affairs, some of which are alleged to involve Middle Eastern potentates, of the Chief Secretary to the Treasury the programme chose to dress its case in the style of Sir David Lean's much-acclaimed 1962 cine-

matic epic. But while Lean used hundreds of camels, 4,000 Beduin extras, and locations in Britain, Jordan and Morocco, not to mention Peter O'Toole and Omar Sharif, Granada used Topsy, who normally lives with Chipperfield's Circus and took her by horsebox to Formby Point, near Liverpool.

Topsy displayed a temperament worthy of the worst Hollywood brat. "She had an aversion to going uphill, downhill, near water or on to soft sand," Chris Malone, the programme's director, said.

Nevertheless, with much patience, Topsy wandered through the programme, looking as puzzled as many

viewers as to what point she was supposed to be making. "It was a cliché, but nothing else would have worked," Mr Malone said.

To provide the authentic heat-haze effect for *Jonathan of Arabia*, a propane gas burner was used. The Arab on Topsy's hump was Wayne Docksey, a friend of the Chipperfield family.

Malone admitted that no genuine Beduin would have been taken in, especially if he had noticed in the back of several shots that common desert birds, the seagulls.

Still, Topsy comes at only £1,000 a day, and you can't get O'Toole, or even a pliable Arab, for that sort of loose change.

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Emily's List to ditch luvvies for low-earners



Follett: US forerunner

EMILY'S LIST, set up to help Labour women become parliamentary candidates, is to change its glitzy image and focus on women on low incomes.

The group, founded two years ago by Barbara Follett, has been accused of promoting smart middle-class women, giving them up to £1,000 each to help them become an MP. Mrs Follett, whose husband Ken, the novelist, has resigned as chairman of Labour's fundraising 1,000 Club, is now determined to shed that image. Her critics have singled out the well publicised £125-a-head gala dinner earlier this year when would-be candidates were paraded in front of the cameras.

Mrs Follett, a former image consultant for Neil Kinnock's Shadow Cabinet, has also been accused of dressing her protégées

■ The organisation that helps women to become Labour MPs is to widen its approach to include less well-off candidates. Jill Sherman explains the reaction to criticisms of its image

in designer red, with shoulder pads and glossy lipstick. Several women Labour MPs are now trying to distance themselves from an image they see as embarrassing and passé. Although Tony Blair supports the principle of Emily's List, he is said to be less enamoured with the "Labour luvvies" than Mr Kinnock, a friend of the Folletts. Later this month the organisation will announce that it is to reduce its limit for each candidate to £500 and that more women will be given help. The group argues

that now that the party has decided to insist on all-women shortlists for certain constituencies and use a one-member one-vote system, Emily's List can lower its profile. Mrs Follett set up Emily's List in 1993, to replicate a group set up in America that helps women Democrats run for Congress, with the acronym Early Money is Like Yeast. The group is hoping to sponsor at least another 20 women but assistance may also be given to others towards rail fares or training. Instead of a costly selection

meeting, modelled on those held by constituencies, those applying for help will be chosen on the basis of application forms alone, and given money more rapidly.

The £1,000 at the moment covers items such as answerphones, travel, child care and clothes. There are also training courses costing up to £600. In future, financial assistance for individual items will be limited and training restricted. "We need to help low-paid women and now that the selection process is going on we need to give help much more quickly," Ann Ward, the group's administrator, said. She emphasised that the group had been set up to aid poorer women but acknowledged that it had mistakenly been viewed as helping the middle classes. "None of us who worked hard to get Emily's List going would be doing it to give

money to women who don't need it. That idea is ludicrous."

Party sources played down Mr Follett's departure as chairman of the club whose members pledge Labour £1,000 a year. Mr Blair's office said Mr Follett had done a "brilliant job" in his four years in the post. However it is believed that the Labour leader has been irritated by some artists parading themselves as Labour spokesmen.

Party sources also think the youthful Mr Blair will gain more credibility if he surrounds himself with captains of industry rather than popular figures in entertainment and the arts. One insider said: "We have an effective fundraising programme. Nothing should get in the way of presenting ourselves as a serious party."

Leading article, page 17

Labour to close schools that perform poorly

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to close failing schools and purge staffrooms of teachers responsible for poor examination results were unveiled by Labour last night.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, intensified his efforts to distance the party from its traditional union friends and court parents as a champion of high standards and strong discipline. He told the annual conference of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers in Harrogate that Labour was examining a "fresh start" approach to those schools that

were judged to be failing their pupils. He said: "A school identified as failing would be closed and a new school would be reopened on the same site for a new school year. The new school, with a new governing body, new teachers and a new head teacher, would be able to offer pupils a fresh chance for success."

The plan extends the Government's new system of sending in hit squads of experienced head teachers to take over schools that are found to be failing by the new inspection regime. So far 44

schools are judged to be failing. Mr Blunkett insisted that his plans offered a decisive alternative to the government system, which left schools to fall apart as market forces reduced their funding.

He said poor management would be tackled. "We would certainly change the leadership of schools which were shown to be failing." Bad teachers would be offered retraining, redeployment, or early retirement. "Early retirement is better than struggling each day in classes which you

can't control, morale at rock bottom," he said.

Inspections by the Office for Standards in Education, currently every four years, would be supplemented by more regular visits from advisers to help schools to improve.

Peter Smith, general secretary of the ATL, called for a constructive dialogue to tackle the problem of failing schools. He said: "The notion that you can close down a whole school and appoint new staff and governors is not just draconian but also possibly illegal in terms of employment laws. This is mass murder, not a surgical strike."

Trustacy is dragging down the examination performance of many schools with poor results, inspectors said yesterday (John O'Leary writes). In one school visited by Her Majesty's Inspectorate, a fifth of pupils were absent during their final term of compulsory education. Twenty-five had been excluded and five had dropped out, in a way that inspectors said amounted to "premature school-leaving".

Truants often were not entered for examinations and did not complete the coursework necessary to obtain qualifications.

Funding gap, page 7

Blair meets Tory reformer

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR has discussed plans to bridge the divide between state and private education with George Walden, the former Tory Education Minister who has drawn up proposals for 120 former direct-grant grammar schools to be funded by the taxpayer again.

The 45-minute meeting took place last week, a fortnight after *The Times* disclosed that Manchester Grammar School was prepared to return to the fold of state education. Mr

Walden, MP for Buckingham, said: "I am very opposed to Labour egalitarianism, which I think has done enormous damage, but there is some rethinking going on over there, and why not encourage it?" Mr Blair's office commented: "He likes listening to people who have got interesting views."

In another signal of Mr Blair's readiness to ditch unwanted ideological baggage, Labour is diluting its threat to end the charitable status of

private schools, which confers big tax advantages. But it has yet to distance itself from its commitment to comprehensive schools for all pupils.

Mr Walden said that Labour's hostility to academic selection of pupils was one of the main obstacles to a rapprochement with some of the country's foremost academic schools. But he pointed out that before the 1970s Labour had backed grammar schools as a ladder of opportunity for working-class pupils.

Bishop chosen

Continued from page 1
Church of England". He said: "At the present time I am just a little concerned that the debate is causing rather more heat than light."

His departure after only four years will be greeted with sorrow in the diocese, to which he has brought a new cohesiveness in administrative and spiritual terms. He conceded that four years was not long to be at the head of what is arguably the church's most difficult diocese, and which was more divided than any other women priests. He said: "I hope my appointment is a signal to the Anglo-Catholic tradition and movement that there is still a place and a space for those of that tradition within the Church of England."

Dr Hope has refrained from ordaining women, delegating that task to others, and after women were ordained there was speculation that he might become a parish priest. Dr Hope said: "I should have been highly delighted if the brown envelope had contained an invitation to become a parish priest or an assistant curate."

But he added: "Basically, I have been ordained a priest in the church of God." What mattered was "to resist that priestly, apostolic ministry in the life of the church. We are here to speak words of faith and life and hope."

His appointment, which now leaves a fifth of the diocese vacant, was welcomed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who said: "I know that we shall work well together. We complement each other in churchmanship, and in opinions on a wider range of issues."

Dr Habgood said: "I am delighted that the Bishop of London has been appointed as my successor."

Mr Tatchell was clearly taken aback by the decision. "It is scandalous that a bishop who opposes lesbian and gay human rights is being promoted by the Church."



Dr David Hope after his nomination yesterday

Dorrell 'very reluctant' to introduce privacy laws

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

STEPHEN DORRELL, the National Heritage Secretary, yesterday said it would be extremely difficult to legislate against "kiss and tell" journalism and indicated his reluctance to bow to backbench pressure for privacy laws.

Speaking in the wake of fresh allegations about the personal and business affairs of two Tory MPs, Mr Dorrell stated his "very clear preference" for self-regulation of the Press through the Press Complaints Commission. He said: "I am unwilling to resort to law if we can develop a system of self-regulation which is inherently preferable if it can be made to work."

He agreed, however, that the complaints commission's

code of conduct contained "weasel words" and needed to be strengthened to reflect the organisation's quasi-judicial purpose and to command public confidence. Mr Dorrell said that the introduction of privacy legislation would not affect only the national press, but also book publishing. "We'd be declaring to be contrary to civil law many books that are carried on today's bookshelves and in many public libraries," he said on BBC Radio 4's *World at One*.

Mr Dorrell made his remarks after Jonathan Aitken, the Treasury Chief Secretary, announced that he intended to sue *The Guardian* for publishing "wicked lies" about his

business activities. The Government has been considering the introduction of privacy legislation for the past two years, but its White Paper on press intrusion has been repeatedly postponed. It seems likely that plans to publish proposals shortly after Easter will be delayed until the summer.

Graham Allen, the Shadow Heritage Minister, said that Labour would oppose privacy legislation that protected politicians from legitimate scrutiny. He said: "Far from requiring a cloak of secrecy, the Aitken case raises issues that demonstrate the need for a Freedom of Information Act and tougher disclosure of MPs' outside interests."

Woman in 120-mile trip to have baby

A pregnant woman was taken by ambulance on a 120-mile round trip before giving birth in the hospital she had started from, health officials confirmed yesterday.

Nadine Barnes, 26, was admitted to the Princess Anne Hospital at Southampton for an emergency Caesarean. But the unit had no neonatal intensive care beds and she was taken to hospitals in Worthing and Shoreham, West Sussex, before being returned to Southampton where she had a son the next day.

Prisoners freed

The Irish Government is to release early another seven IRA prisoners today. Two were jailed for armed robbery and the others for possession of weapons. One is from Belfast and the others from Dublin. This will bring to 21 the number of IRA prisoners who have been released early since the IRA ceasefire began in August.

Wigs ruling

Barriers are to keep their wigs on, but solicitors will remain bare-headed, the Lord Chancellor has ruled. Lord Mackay's ruling came despite a majority vote among organisations and individuals concerned with the wearing of wigs in favour of abandoning wigs altogether. The Law Society said the decision was indefensible.

Gas rapist guilty

A 15-year-old schoolboy who launched a CS gas attack on a bus to force a teenage girl into his clutches has been found guilty of kidnap and rape. The Old Bailey was told that after the bus was evacuated, the boy, who cannot be named, marched his victim to a friend's house and raped her. Sentence was adjourned until May 12.

Lottery attack

The Bishop of Liverpool said the National Lottery was "calculated" to trigger obsessions with winning and it was distorting the value of work. The Right Rev David Sheppard's criticism came two days after the suicide of Tim O'Brien, a member of his diocese, who missed a share of last week's £8 million prize because he forgot to renew his ticket.

Union challenge

Bill Morris is being challenged as general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union by a moderniser close to Tony Blair. Jack Dromey, the union's public services secretary and husband of the Shadow Employment Secretary, Harriet Harman, announced yesterday that he is to run against Mr Morris.

Shooting inquiry

The Police Complaints Authority has launched an inquiry into the shooting of an armed man by officers. The condition of the man, 23, who had brandished a gun at police and the public after being involved in a domestic argument, was yesterday described as comfortable. The incident happened in Bradford on Monday evening.

Bartell retires

John Bartell, chairman of the Prison Officers' Association for the past nine years, is to retire in June. Mr Bartell, 53, a former Royal Navy tactical communications officer, has led the union's opposition to the privatisation of prisons. A spokeswoman said: "John is retiring after many years service. An election will take place for his successor."

Aitken's war on newspaper 'lies'

Continued from page 1

Tory Central Office numbered over 100 last night and were said to be 7:1 in his favour. Mr Aitken said last night: "The tide of messages, faxes, letters pushed through the door, deserve the over-worked word 'inundated'... I have struck a chord. Messages from the public have linked what I have called bent and twisted journalism with the Royal Family. They are saying, 'These guys have destroyed politicians and are destroying our Royal Family. At last someone has had the guts to say I am fighting back'."

Senior Tories hailed Mr Aitken's declaration of war on deceitful and vindictive jour-

nalists as the start of a long overdue fight-back against the media. However, senior figures in the party continued to warn privately that Mr Aitken was taking a huge risk by consigning his political career to the vagaries of a libel jury.

Jeremy Hanley, the Tory party Chairman, threw the full weight of the Party machine behind Mr Aitken, insisting that he had his support, and that of the Prime Minister. He strongly rejected Opposition calls for Mr Aitken to leave the Cabinet in order to fight his libel action. "Jonathan Aitken's right was to bring his action, to take out writs. The Prime Minister has given him support and back-

ing in that," he said.

It would be wrong if every time a journalist wrote a story that was untrue, a minister had to resign in order to defend himself. That would mean that the make-up of the Government would be in your hands instead of the Prime Minister's," he told a news conference at Conservative Central Office.

Mr Aitken is still considering issuing writs against Granada Television over its *World at One* programme on Monday night. Upon which *The Guardian* based its articles. Senior figures in the Saudi royal family strongly backed Mr Aitken, and warned that relations between

the two countries could be severely damaged by the harsh images of the Arab world shown in the programme.

Libel damages: Allegations that a friend of Mr Aitken was investigated by the FBI over illegal arms sales were untrue and defamatory, the High Court was told yesterday. Said Mohammed Ayas accepted substantial undisclosed libel damages over an article in *The Independent on Sunday*, published last year. The newspaper also expressed its regret for connecting Mr Aitken with the allegations.

Simon Jenkins, page 16

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Victim had founded Neighbourhood Watch scheme after spate of burglaries

Wife murdered in farmhouse family was about to leave

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE handcuffed and naked body of a chemist's wife was found yesterday at the family's remote Chiltern farmhouse, which they had just sold.

Janet Brown, 51, had been alone in the 18th century house. Her husband, Dr Graham Brown, works during the week in Switzerland and her daughter Roxanne, 17, an A-level student, spent the night at a friend's home.

The body was discovered when a builder, Nicholas Marshall, arrived at 8am yesterday to continue work on a stable roof. The burglar alarm was ringing and Mr Marshall's son Ben, 15, found Mrs Brown's battered body.

She was lying face down, her hands secured behind her back, on a bed in one of the four bedrooms of the house, on which contracts were exchanged for £345,000 about two weeks ago. Mrs Brown, who worked in the Oxford area as a contract nurse in medical research, was last seen by neighbours on Monday morning.

The couple's two other children, Zara, 22, reading languages at London University, and Benedict, 21, studying at Exeter University, live away from home. The family bought Hall Farm, set in 11 acres of



Roxanne Brown away

paddocks and gardens on the outskirts of the village of Radnage, Buckinghamshire, ten years ago.

Nine years ago, Mrs Brown disturbed a burglar at her home but he escaped. She then bought a Great Dane called Carly for protection. The dog died 18 months ago and had not yet been replaced.

After half a dozen burglaries at nearby Farthing Hall, Mrs Brown formed a Neighbourhood Watch scheme two years ago and became its chairwoman. She always switched on the alarm system if she or her daughter were staying at home alone.

The security system was a

selling point in the estate agent's literature. The farmhouse, less than a mile from the border with Oxfordshire, is framed by climbing roses and a 300-year-old yew and several walnut trees grow near by.

Dr Brown worked for Glaxo in Canada until three years ago and is thought to have been working near Geneva, returning home about once a month. He came home last weekend to help with preparations for moving house.

Thames Valley Police threw a cordon round the barnet as forensic science teams arrived, officers with dogs searched stables and outbuildings, and detectives made door-to-door inquiries. Two long metal poles lying in the road were marked as exhibits.

Richard Wilson, a neighbour, said: "There have been a number of burglaries in the area. One house was burgled a number of times and the people living there saw a person in the garden. We have also seen people hanging around in cars looking suspicious."

Peter Wood, 48, a neighbour, said: "Janet was a very attractive woman with short blonde hair who always kept herself looking nice." Susan Butler, 48, a friend, said: "They were a pleasant, nice family. She was terribly sweet and lovely."

Mrs Brown met her husband when she was a nurse and he a doctor at St George's hospital in Tooting, south London. She had previously been engaged to Morris Barton, now 50 and a Liberal Democratic leader on the Isle of Wight council.

He said yesterday: "She was my first love. She was a lovely blonde, petite and pretty and vivacious too, with a smashing personality. We were together for five or six years but we drifted apart."



Police sealing off the murder scene. Several nearby homes had been burgled

Former Yard chief guilty of shoplifting

By RICHARD DUCE

A FORMER Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police left court in disgrace yesterday after he was convicted of shoplifting.

Wyn Jones, once the third most senior officer with the force, was found guilty by a jury at Southwark Crown Court after less than an hour.

Jones, 50, shook his head in apparent disbelief at the verdict but Judge Gerald Butler, QC, said he had been convicted on "overwhelming evidence" of stealing £24 of groceries from Marks and Spencer. At the time of his arrest in March last year Jones was carrying £1,700 in cash.

Jones, of Belgrave, was fined £400 and ordered to pay prosecution costs of £350. He had denied the theft charge during the two-day trial.

The conviction was a second blow for Jones. The jury was not told that he had been sacked from his £67,000-a-year post at the Yard four months before the shoplifting offence, after a three-year internal investigation into allegations of misconduct linked to the use of staff cars and a police launch, and trips abroad. The Queen was asked to withdraw his warrant, which was held directly from her.

The court was told how Jones was seen by a store detective to place two bottles of red wine, cheese and chicken breasts into carrier bags containing goods he had already

paid for at the M&S store in King's Road, Chelsea. He had to be manhandled back into the store by the detective and a security guard. He was again physically restrained in the manager's office after he appeared to try to escape. Jones told the court of his "shock and humiliation" at being arrested and how the fastener on his trousers was broken.

The prosecution said it could not explain why Jones had decided to steal. In his defence Jones had claimed his arrest had all been a mistake, describing himself as an "ill-disciplined" shopper who had had to make three trips into the food section. The court was told, however, that he had only one receipt, covering the purchase of fruit and vegetables.



Jones: fined £400



Hall Farm: security alarms were a selling point

VE-Day Spitfire stamps stolen in £1m armed raid

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

ARMED robbers have escaped with more than £1 million of VE-Day commemorative stamps. The Royal Mail booklets, celebrating Reginald J. Mitchell, designer of the Spitfire, were stolen when a gang, two of them armed with shotguns, ambushed a security van.

They took thousands of limited-edition booklets, each containing four stamps, as well as 200,000 standard first-class stamps, in the raid at Walsall, West Midlands.

The commemorative issue is due to go on sale on May 16 as part of commemorations to mark the end of the Second World War in Europe. The booklets carry pictures of Mitchell's face, a Spitfire and a Schneider Trophy seaplane from which the fighter was developed.

The alarm was raised after



Part of stamp booklet

the robbers, driving a grey van, ambushed a delivery vehicle thought to be taking the stamps to a Royal Mail building in Walsall town centre on Monday. After threatening security guards two of the robbers escaped in the delivery vehicle while their accomplices drove away in the van.

Both vehicles were later discovered four miles away. The two security officers were treated for shock and cuts.

Detective Superintendent John Plimmer of West Mid-

lands CID said there was a likelihood that the robbery was carried out to order. "It is an unusual offence, as we don't usually get people going for stamps. We assume that they knew what they were after and have some outlet in mind."

Dr Gordon Mitchell, Reginald Mitchell's son, who led a two-year campaign to get the issue printed, said he hoped the booklets could be recovered. "The idea was to get the Royal Mail to honour my father," Dr Mitchell said. "It took a long time and a lot of work. I sent out letters to 1,000 people and they all wrote to the Royal Mail, and as a result the stamps were printed."

A spokesman for the Royal Mail said yesterday: "We will be regretting the stamps that have been stolen and will not let this affect the launch on May 16."

Mother who killed her babies is jailed

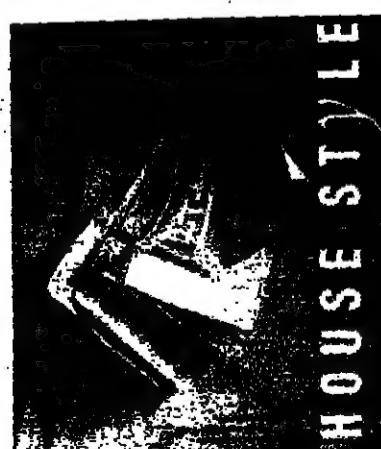
By KATE ALDERSON

A MOTHER was sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday after being found guilty of murdering her two babies as they slept.

Maxine Robinson, 26, whose first child was a cot death victim, suffocated her son and daughter by holding pillows over their faces. Three hours later, after pretending to check on them, she calmly told her husband: "I think the babies are dead."

A jury at Sheffield Crown Court took ten hours to convict Robinson, of Ouston, Co Durham, of murdering Christine, aged 19 months, and Anthony, five months. Robinson's husband Peter was not in court.

The jury was told that the children's last hours in June 1993 had been spent playing before being put to bed by their father. No motive could be found for their murder. Outside court Detective Chief Inspector Fred Taylor said: "Two psychiatrists' reports showed the mother was quite normal."



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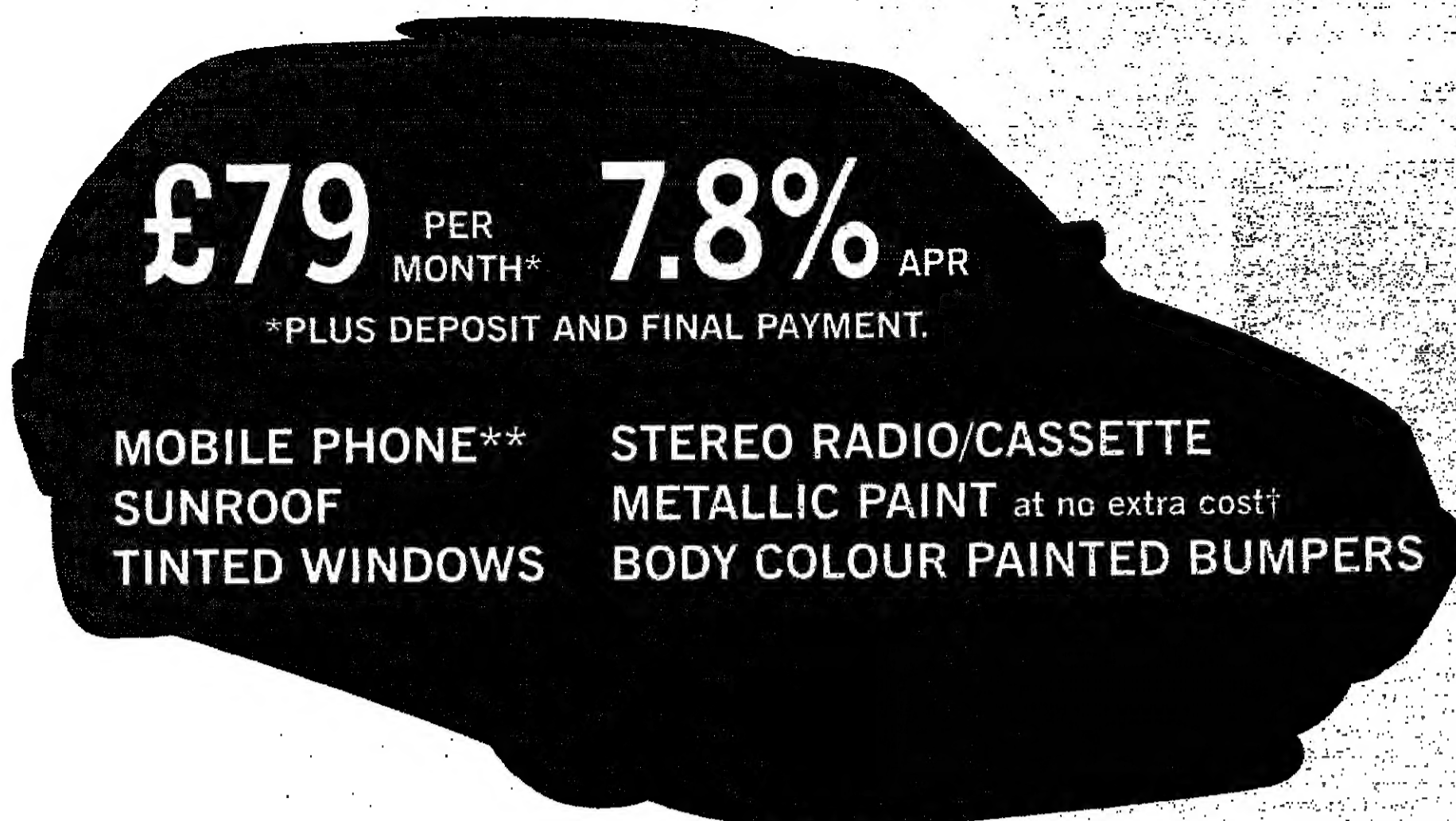


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For sale: the moment man first looked down on Everest



By JOHN SHAW

THE first aerial photographs of Everest, the world's highest mountain, are being sold for an estimated £13,000 at Christie's in London next month. They belong to a descendant of the photographer, Colonel L.V.S. Blacker, an officer in the Indian Army, who took them from a Westland aircraft in 1933.

The flight over the 29,030ft peak, covered exclusively by *The Times*, marked a significant moment for the development of both photography and aviation. The mountain, named after Sir George Everest, the first surveyor-general of India, was then a symbol of the unobtainable. Even 62 years later, with the peak conquered and aerial photography a commonplace, the prints carry great historical and artistic power.

Four attempts were made



Air Commodore Fellowes, leader of the 1933 expedition to Everest, with Lord Clydesdale, chief pilot. They returned with the world's first aerial pictures of the summit, some of which are now to be sold



on the summit between 1922-1924. They ended with the disappearance of George Mallory and his companion on the mountainside. For the next nine years Tibet was closed to the outside world.

Meanwhile, aviation was making great strides and an expedition to combine the twin challenge of photographing the uncharted peak by flying over it began in 1932. It was financed by Lady Houston, a well known society hostess and aviation enthusiast. The expedition committee was led by Air Commodore P.F.M. Fellowes, and included Lord Peel, John Buchan, the novelist, Lord Clydesdale, MP, who was nominated chief pilot, and the Maharajah of Nawanganagar.

In order to reach the uncharted south face of the mountain, the committee first had to obtain permission from the King of Nepal to fly over his kingdom. No Euro-

pean was known to have crossed the territory before and the request had to be presented delicately to the Nepalese.

It was the suggestion of the Prime Minister of Nepal that the flight might resemble the second coming of Krishna, the Hindu god said to have constructed a silver chariot and flown around the south face of the mountain, that finally ensured the success of the expedition's request. Per-

mission was granted. The aim was to photograph the south side using a still camera, thereby demonstrating the power of aerial survey photography for global cartography. The equipment was made by Williamson Eagle.

Major technical developments were necessary to both the camera and aircraft. The Westland and its Bristol Pegasus engines were adapted to reach the necessary height

and to fly in the thin and freezing air.

The carefully selected cameras also had to be protected from the extremes of cold. Special cloth jackets with a network of electric filaments sewn between cover and lining were designed. The pilot's suits were heated in the same way. A total of 34 wires linked pilot and observer-photographer to their aircraft and cameras. The first flight was made over the summit of

Everest on April 3, 1933. Colonel Blacker was in the first plane, flown by Lord Clydesdale. A second aircraft carried a cameraman from Gaumont British News.

Eight photographs from the flight, printed for an exhibition held after the trip, will be sold at auction on May 3. They show the approach to Everest, the ice wall, a vertical view of the mountain and the Kanchenjunga mountains. The two most ex-

pensive photographs are one of Everest taken from a distance of 110 miles and a second showing the snow plume of the mountain. Each is estimated at £2,000 to £3,000.

A spokeswoman said: "This is the first time these photographs have appeared at auction. They are already arousing a great deal of interest not only for their historic significance but also for their artistic appeal."

Independent Television Commission

Watchdog urges ITV to put spotlight on drama

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BROADCASTING regulators accused ITV yesterday of lacking innovation in drama and entertainment and criticised the confinement of religious programmes to Sunday mornings, when viewers might be at church.

In its annual review of the work of ITV and Channel 4, the Independent Television Commission urged commercial broadcasters to introduce a more gradual transition from programmes suitable for children to adult material shown after the 9pm watershed. The commission also said that too many of ITV's

factual programmes concentrated on the "flashing blue lights" of the emergency services, suffering and disasters. ITV's daytime programming was "narrowly dependent on audio audience talk shows" and repeats.

However, the report was highly complimentary about some ITV dramas, such as *Cracker* and *Coronation Street*, both made by Granada Television, and the LWT show hosted by Michael Barrymore.

Although Channel 4's performance was commended, particularly its *Film on Four*

series, David Glencross, chief executive of the commission, said he was concerned about matters of "taste and decency" in the late-night youth programme *The Word*.

Sir George Russell, chairman of the commission, noted an overall improvement in the output of the ITV companies since the first year of their current licences. Having gained a significant lead over BBC1 by its success in popular drama, with a 46 per cent share of the audience in peak time in 1994, ITV should guard against "excessive caution". He said: "ITV has a string of hits with viewers, enormous ratings strength in peak time, and has increased the network budget. They can afford to take a few more risks."

Leslie Hill, chairman of the ITV council representing the independent companies, replied that, with an imperative to generate advertising revenue, ITV had to balance innovation with attracting viewers. "Our successes today come from the innovations from the past. We cannot be blamed if they turn out to be popular and we then decide stick with them," he said.

Accusations that factual programmes focused too much on the police and rescue services were "inconsistent", Mr Hill added. "The ITC has praised *The Cook Report*, which covered a wide range of subjects. Our season of programmes on the arms trade is also praised." Mr Hill added that ITV was the only network to broadcast a religious service live, every week.

Carlton made progress in 1994, particularly in factual programmes, but "more remained to be achieved", yesterday's report said. GMTV, the breakfast broadcaster, showed a "marked improvement", although its children's information programming remained "disappointing".

ITC's verdict on regional stations

What the Independent Television Commission said about individual stations:

Channel 4: general distinction, fulfilling minority and innovative remit. Problems with *The Word*.

Anglia: strong screen performance despite extensive management changes and job cuts after takeover by M&A.

Border: considerable success developing regional performance.

Carlton: improvements in factual programmes and drama, "impressive" children's programmes, but overall more remains to be achieved.

Central: high quality in drama, factual programmes and comedy. ITC monitoring performance after takeover by Carlton.

Channel: high-quality regional service.

GMTV: marked improvement but children's Saturday information programmes still disappointing.

Grampian: high-quality news and foreign affairs.

Granada: single largest

supplier to network. "Unsurpassed" episodes of *Cracker*. "Serious concern" over infringement of sponsorship codes.

ITV's regional programmes improved but shown when fewer people watching.

LWT's regional service not up to last year's high standards since acquisition by Granada Group. Entertainment and drama programmes for network "impressive".

Meridian: documentaries praised but arts sector disappointing.

Scotish: substantial local programming.

Time Tees: strong performance, doubling hours supplied to network in 1993.

UTV: impartial and authoritative reporting of peace process.

Westcountry: after difficult first year, good news service and regional programmes. Better ratings.

Yorkshire: best of drama, factual and children's output "in the first rank of ITV's programming".

Princely rent is small price for keeping up with the Windsors

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Queen is dipping her toe in the property market. Up to 60 former grace-and-favour residences in the royal palaces are to be offered for rent on the open market. For the first time in living memory, the hot-potato will have the opportunity to acquire such socially acceptable addresses as "Hampton Court" or "adjoining Kensington Palace".

Leases will be short and rents high. And anyone who imagines that the mere parting of money will gain them next-door-neighbourliness with the sovereign, her sister

or even the Michaels of Kent had better think again. The premises about to go onto the estate agents' books are very much on the fringes of the royal domain.

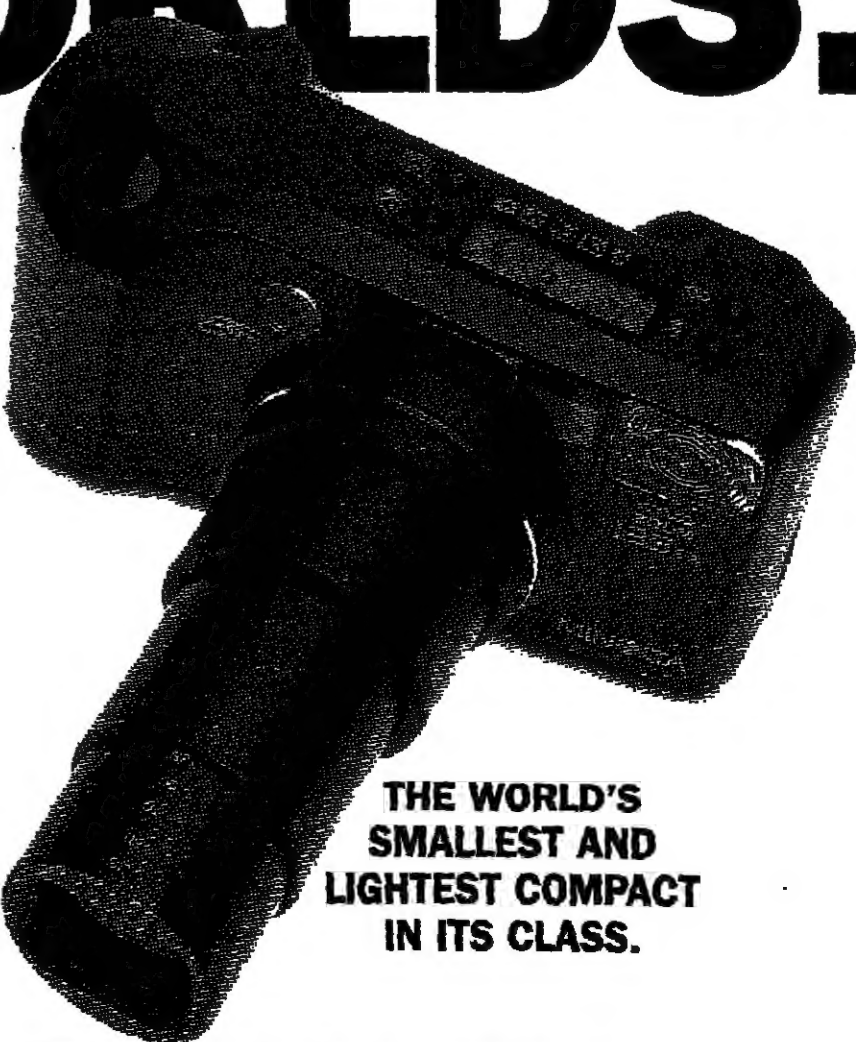
Within the next three months, the first two royal properties will be offered through a yet-to-be-appointed agent. They are a cottage in Royal Paddocks, on the edge of the Hampton Court estate, and a terraced house in Old Barracks, behind the Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington, west London, close to but quite separate from the palace, which is home to the Princess of Wales. Princess

Margaret, the Gloucesters and the Kents. Sugar-bor- rowing, over-the-fence-char- ter and banging on the wall in protest at late-night revelry are thought highly unlikely.

Rents have still to be finalised, but the first two properties are expected to bring in a combined rent of £35,000 a year.

A Palace spokeswoman said yesterday that leasing the flats would increase rental income from £400,000 to £700,000 a year and would make an important contribution to the cost of running the royal palaces, currently over £19 million a year.

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MINOLTA

Panel of experts proposes 'culture of safety' to prevent repetition of Zeebrugge and Estonia

Ferry firms face hefty bills to meet tough new rules

By JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

FERRY companies could face multimillion-pound bills to meet new safety standards recommended by an international panel of experts. A number of roll-on, roll-off ferries may need to be fitted with extra bulkheads to create watertight compartments on the car decks.

Such work could cost from a few hundred thousand pounds per ship to more than £1 million. The work is needed to avoid any repetition of the *Herald of Free Enterprise* and *Estonia* disasters. On each occasion, water got to the car deck with catastrophic results. Last week Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, published a list of more than 60 ro-ro vessels using British ports that failed to meet existing international standards for safety at sea.



O'Neill: safety conscious

published in 1990. Although the panel of experts warned that some of the world's 2,150 ro-ro ferries could be forced out of service by the implications of the new standards, British companies are thought able to meet the cost. Yesterday's announcement by the panel, set up by the International Maritime Organisation, also recommended "black box" recorders and helicopter pick-up areas for injured passengers.

William O'Neill, Secretary General of the IMO, said the proposals could not prevent another shipping disaster on the scale of the *Estonia* or the *Herald of Free Enterprise* but were aimed at fostering a "safety culture" among ferry operators and employees.

"It is important that people from top to bottom are safety conscious, so ferries don't, for example, go out with their bow doors open," he said. "The travelling public is a little uneasy and there is a need to reassure people. There is a need for these ships but they must operate as safely as possible."

Other recommendations include the fitting of inner doors behind the bow doors and valves to allow drainage from car decks to be maintained while vessels are at sea. The panel also says audible alarms and closed-circuit television should be installed on ships' bridges to monitor the bow doors; all crew members should be required to understand the ferry's designated working language; some types



Extra bulkheads will be required on the vehicle decks of many ferries, together with inner doors behind bows

of vehicles should be lashed down during sea crossings; crew members appointed to deal with emergencies should have more training, particularly on topics such as fire fighting and crowd management; surprise safety inspections should be carried out at least once a year; operators should draw up full passenger lists; and life-saving equip-

ment such as life rafts and on-board rescue boats should be modified so that they could be used by people with little or no training.

If approved by the IMO's marine safety committee at its meeting in May, the new rules could be in place by the end of 1996. The British Chamber of Shipping said British ferry companies would comply with

whatever international standards were agreed.

Chris Laming, a spokesman for Stena Sealink, said: "We will do whatever we are required to do. This is the first time there has been unified guidance for the industry. Before, no country had been prepared to go along because of the fear of competitive disadvantage."

Pensioner defeats council sell-off

By TIM JONES

A PENSIONER'S legal victory over a Conservative local authority will force councils to reconsider selling old people's homes to the private sector.

Yesterday 48 pensioners led by William Beckwith, 75, won a High Court order quashing the London borough of Wandsworth's decision to close their home and to sell three others.

Mr Justice Popplewell ruled that the council had adopted a "mistaken approach" under the Government's care-in-the-community legislation, which says there should be a mixture of council-run and privately owned homes for people in need. The judge told the authority that it was obliged by law to retain at least one home under its control. Mr Beckwith, who is confined to a wheelchair, said: "I am very happy we have won. We have made them think again."

Paul Green, the deputy chairman of social services, said that the council would challenge the ruling in the Court of Appeal. Wandsworth had argued it was not obliged to provide homes for each class of need mentioned in the Community Care Act: age, illness, disability and dependent and nursing mothers.

The council maintained that it would satisfy the legal requirements if, for example, it sold all its old people's homes while retaining accommodation for the disabled. But the judge ruled that each class of person had to be treated separately and an authority could not remove its duties toward any one class.

Although the council may still sell the home in which the pensioners live, they will have to retain at least one of the other three.

Sally Greenough, director-general of Age Concern England, said: "The community care reforms centred on the principle of choice, and this ruling has upheld that principle."



Beckwith: High Court win

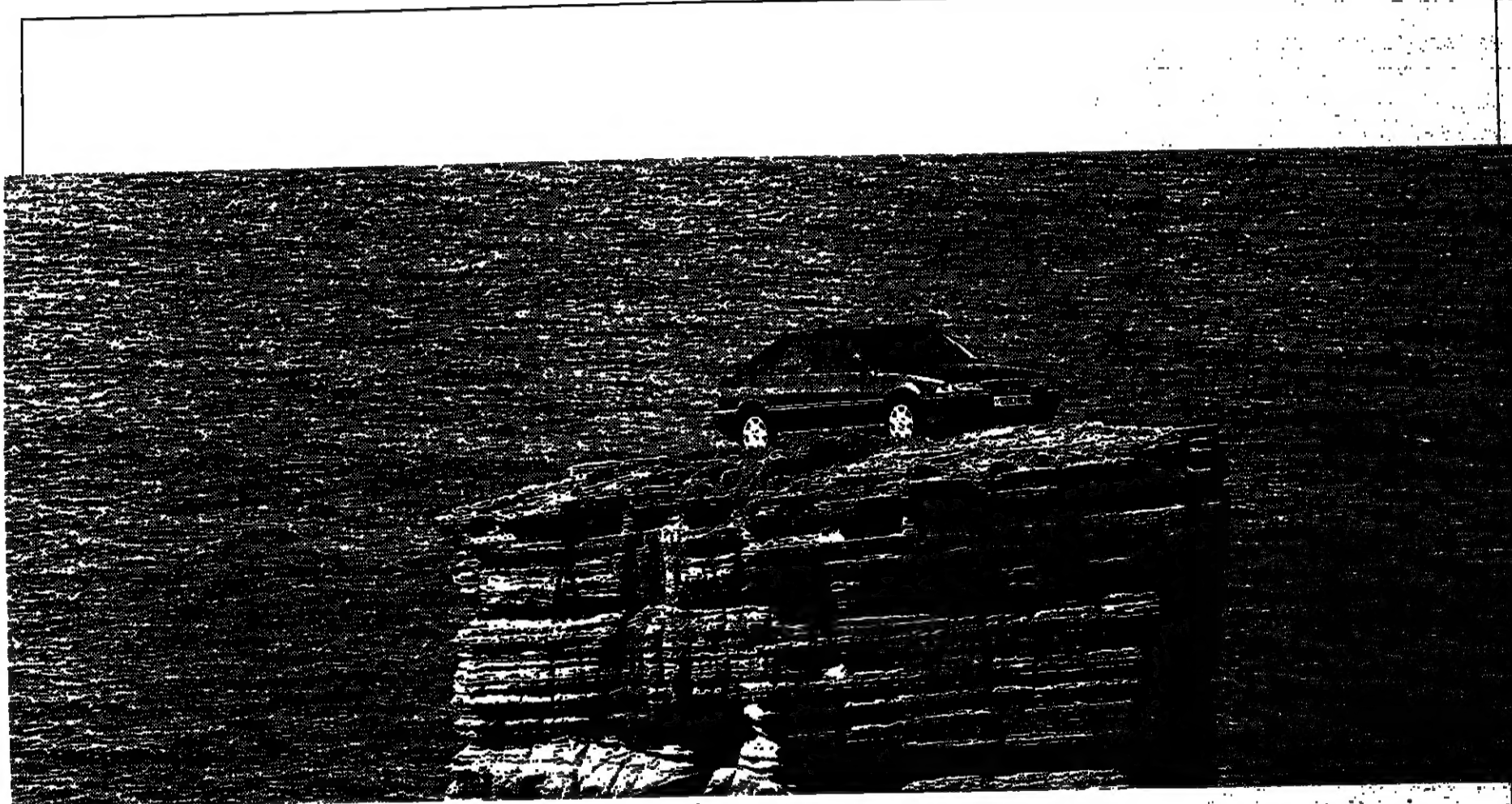
Swift bows to outcry over rail tickets

By JONATHAN PRYNN

PLANS to slash the number of stations selling train tickets to all parts of the country have been ditched after strong protests from Tory MPs and the public. Thirty Tories, including Sir Edward Heath, two ministers, and three former Cabinet ministers, wrote to John Swift, the Rail Regulator, expressing their opposition. The proposal would have left only 294 "core" stations capable of selling through-tickets to all destinations, which could have left some passengers having to travel 50 miles to buy a ticket.

Instead, Mr Swift has decided to freeze at 1,500 the number of stations selling through-tickets after privatisation. The arrangement will be reviewed in two years.

Announcing his decision, Mr Swift said his consultation had shown the current system "worked well and is well understood and trusted by passengers". Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, said the announcement was "a further demonstration that privatisation moves forward with the passenger firmly in mind".



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MEDICAL BRIEFING

Glandular cure is not set in stone

Dr Thomas Stuttford

A RUDDY-FACED banker who looked as if he belonged to the era in which City men still had long moustaches was recently alarmed at swelling he had noticed under his jaw. He feared that he had Hodgkin's disease. Although Hodgkin's usually now has a good prognosis, its former reputation ensures anxiety.

The diagnosis, his own, was wrong. For the gland that was swelling was not a lymph gland, as it would have been if he had had Hodgkin's, but a salivary gland. The gland was not permanently swollen but varied in size once it had been pointed out, the patient realised that it was larger, and painful, during and after meals. His troubles were not induced by a lymphoma but by lemon squeezed out to smoked salmon, or by any other bitter, spicy or tasty foods which can make the mouth water by stimulating the production of saliva.

The common cause of an intermittently swelling gland in the face is a stone blocking the duct leading from a salivary gland. The salivary glands are in two groups, either in the floor of the mouth under the jaw, the submandibular glands, or at the angle of the jaw in front of the ear, the parotid glands. The parotid glands are the ones that swell in mumps.

In London each year there are 700 cases of salivary stones that need treatment, which hitherto has been by surgery. Surgery involves the

patient in a general anaesthetic and at least a three-day stay in hospital. The operation is not free of complications.

After five years of research Professor Mark McGurk, of Guy's Hospital Oral and Maxillo-Facial Department, has for the past six months been treating salivary gland stones with a lithotripter, similar to the machine used to crush gall stones and kidney stones by bombarding them with ultra-sound shocks so that they fragment. The lithotripter is aimed at the stone in the salivary duct with the help of an ultrasonic probe. Treatment of three sessions of half an hour is as an outpatient; no other medication is prescribed and the treatment causes no more than slight discomfort.

In 70 per cent of cases the lithotripter treatment is successful, surgery is avoided and with it the danger of side effects. Another advantage in a cost-conscious NHS is that lithotripter treatment is only a third as expensive as surgery.

At the moment there is only one salivary gland stone lithotripter in the country but it promises to be the treatment of the future and will not only get bankers back to their City offices in record time, but will become available to all other NHS patients.

Dr Stuttford writes every week in The Times. His column appears on the Body and Mind page on Tuesdays and Thursdays and on a Home News page on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

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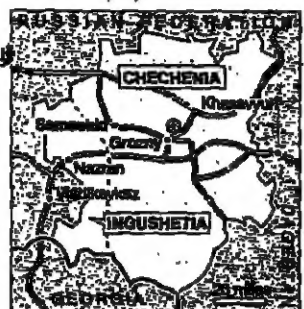
Russians are accused of 'civilian massacre'

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

RUSSIAN troops were yesterday accused of massacring Chechen civilians when they captured the town of Samashki at the weekend. Refugees from the town reported dozens of civilian casualties and said women and children had been killed by soldiers.

Russian officers in the area denied the reports, but refused to let aid workers and journalists into the town.

Samashki was one of only two settlements on the Chechen plains that was still in the hands of separatist forces. Now only Achkhoy-Martan, in the southwest, remains. Other towns have been abandoned in recent



weeks as their Chechen defenders fled to the mountains, but the Chechens in Samashki apparently decided to fight to the end. They have paid accordingly. The Russian Army claims that more than 100 fighters were killed in Samashki, although Western correspondents in the area consider this an exaggeration.

Chechen refugees from Samashki interviewed by Western journalists have spoken of Russian soldiers throwing grenades into cellars full of civilians. Zina Akhmadova, 43, said she had five of her seven children had died in the bombardment, and that after Samashki's fall, two neighbours had been downed with petrol by Russian soldiers and

burnt to death. Zayina Kurbanova said Russian troops had fired shots into the cellar where she was hiding, and she had later counted seven civilian bodies in the street. She and other refugees said that the entire adult male population of Samashki had been arrested and taken away. Paul Corboz, of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who visited Samashki briefly on Monday, said that many bodies were still lying in the town and "humanitarian norms were not completely observed".

Aleksandr Guryanov, a Russian human rights activist who was denied access to Samashki, said his group had compiled a list of 500 people who were believed to be missing. He accused the Russian Army of "nothing less than genocide".

Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen leader, accused Russia yesterday of "unprecedented cruelty" against civilians, and once again called for a political settlement to the conflict. General Dudayev is believed to be at a secret location in Chechnya's Caucasus mountains, where separatist forces are now regrouping. He has said that his men use the Caucasus as a base to launch a guerrilla war against Russian troops and their Chechen collaborators on the plains.

Oleg Soskovets, a Russian First Deputy Prime Minister, who is in charge of Russian policy towards Chechnya, admitted on Monday that Russia's capture of the plains had not ended the war.

Tajik attack: Russian helicopter gunships yesterday struck Tajik opposition forces near the border with Afghanistan, on the fifth day of heavy fighting in the war-torn Central Asian republic of Tajikistan. A Russian military spokesman said that up to 47 Tajik rebels were killed.

French luvvies discover Chirac's sensitive soul

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

When the stars of French culture used to hear the name Chirac, they would reach for their guns. The Gaullist boss and former Prime Minister was deemed a Philistine devoted to action films and beer. However, now that Jacques Chirac has emerged as a likely President and patron of the giant state arts budget, much of the creative world has discovered the Mayor of Paris to be a sensitive soul and they turned out this week to bless him.

A squad of newly converted luvvies joined the list of old Chirac loyalists such as Brigitte Bardot and Johnny Hallyday, the rock idol, at the Paris Winter Circus where the presidential favourite promised to make France dazzle the world again. He will do this by raising arts spending to 1 per cent of the national budget, from the already lavish 0.91 per cent administered by Jacques Toubon, the *trés Chiracien* Culture Minister.

One by one, the glitterati bestowed their imprimatur on M Chirac, whose taste for poetry and oriental literature is a recent revelation. The most telling testimony came from apostates from the Gauche Caviar, the celebrity left-wingers who had supped at the court of President Mitterrand and Jack Lang, his dashing chamberlain of the arts. Marcel Carné, 93, the director of *Les Enfants du Paradis* and many other postwar hits, spoke for the old Lefties:



Bardot: a long-time Chirac loyalist

"Chirac is the man for me. People tell me I was on the Left before but it has greatly disappointed me."

M Chirac promises to fight the invasion of American films and bring culture to the masses. The trail of Gaullist cultural sensitivity, he points out, was blazed by André Malraux, the writer appointed minister by General Charles de Gaulle. The nationalist argument is appreciated by M Chirac's 210-strong club of thinkers and performers. These include Charles Aznavour, Stéphane Grappelli, Annie Girardot, the actress, Roman Polanski and Jean-Jacques Benoit, the film directors, Azedine Alaïa and Nino Cerruti, the fashion designers, as

well as Emmanuel Le Roy-Ladurie, the historian. The most celebrated among the one-time Mitterrand loyalists are Pierre Bergé, the head of the Yves Saint Laurent firm and former president of the Paris Opera and Frédéric, a television personality who is the President's nephew.

In the contest for endorsement, the tide of "Chiracomania" has left Edouard Balladur, the Prime Minister and rival Gaullist candidate, with barely a celebrity to his name. The story was different a few months ago, when writers and artists trooped to his luncheon table, among them Bernard-Henri Lévy, the star philosopher. M Lévy has now forgotten his flirtation and appears on the smaller list of backers of Lionel Jospin, the Socialist candidate.

The discredit that has befallen the Socialists has robbed the thinking classes of their traditional home. Some "Mitterrand orphans" cannot face the idea of backing a conservative and have thrown in their lot with Robert Hue, the genial Communist Party leader.

Few votes are likely to be won by the support of the intellectuals, a group with a sorry history of meddling in politics that is not much loved beyond the chattering classes. *Le Monde* noted yesterday that M Chirac was repeating M Mitterrand's success with the luvvies in 1981 and it warned that "he would do well to beware" of the newest of his new friends.



Edouard Balladur carries traces of lipstick on his cheek after being kissed by a supporter at a campaign meeting in Angoulême

Paris championed plea for Rushdie

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE European Union agreed to put pressure on Iran to drop the fatwa against Salman Rushdie, the British author, only after a lobbying group won the support of rival French presidential candidates and dragged a reluctant Foreign Office in their wake.

Article XIX, the London-based anti-censorship pressure group that has been campaigning for more than six years against the fatwa, said yesterday that it had played on French political rivalries to link Rushdie's case to relations between the European Union and Iran. Frances D'Souza, the executive director of Article XIX, headed a delegation to France that persuaded Alain Juppé, the Foreign Minister and supporter of Jacques Chirac, to take up the Rushdie case. Supporters of Edouard Balladur, the Prime Minister, quickly followed suit.

From the start, Britain was reluctant to attempt any new approach to Tehran, with the Government insisting that nothing could be done until the present regime in Iran was changed. Once France had championed Rushdie's cause, Britain, which bears the main cost of protecting his life, was unwilling to cede the initiative.

John Major agreed to support the French proposals on Monday. The main difficulty for Rushdie's supporters has been to get agreement from all the EU states. Several countries, especially Germany, have substantial commercial links with Iran.

Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, responded coolly at first to the idea of a specific link between EU political relations and an Iranian promise to drop support for the fatwa, but Bonn has now agreed to support the French proposal.

The writer's supporters are using two factors to try to persuade the Iranian Government to distance itself from the late Ayatollah Khomeini's pronouncement: Tehran's belief that the European Parliament is an important and influential centre; and Iran's obsession with public opinion in the United States.

Some European states are beginning a *de facto* normalisation with Iran. Any further warming will be dependent on Tehran agreeing to set aside the fatwa. At a recent meeting of the Council of Europe in London, Rushdie said the Iranian Government was vulnerable to economic pressure.

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TIM 4

US judge rules victims can sue gun makers

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK
AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A SAN FRANCISCO judge ruled yesterday that the manufacturer of an assault rifle used in a mass killing in 1993 can be sued for the bloodshed inflicted by its weaponry, clearing the way for a flood of similar claims from other victims of gun violence.

Gian Luigi Ferri killed eight people and wounded six others when he opened fire with two semi-automatic assault rifles made by the weapons maker, Navegar Inc, at the offices of a San Francisco law firm on July 1, 1993. The gunman then killed himself as police moved in. No court had ever held a manufacturer liable for the effects of a weapon, but on Monday Judge James Warren, of the Superior Court, ruled that Navegar could be sued.

Michelle Scully, whose husband died trying to protect her from the attack on the Pettit and Martin law firm, said that the ruling would force gun makers to reconsider how their lethal products are employed. "This means they cannot sell these weapons and market them to the criminal element, take the money and sleep well that night... they will have to think about how those guns are used, the

shattered lives they leave behind, the innocent people they are going to kill," she said.

Ernest Getto, a lawyer for Navegar, insisted that Ferri's assault weapons were manufactured legally in Florida and purchased in Nevada, states that do not prohibit such weapons. "We did nothing unlawful in California."

Eight lawsuits in connection with the shooting have been filed on behalf of victims and their survivors against the various manufacturers involved, claiming that they should have anticipated their products "would be used to kill or injure people in a violent criminal act."

The judge's decision was based on an argument that the sale of the weapon, known as a TEC-DC9, violated the public policy of California. In 1989, California became the first state to enact a ban on 40 types of assault weapons, including pistols and shotguns, after five school children were killed by a drifter firing an AK47.

Since then, the Clinton Administration has attempted to impose strict national curbs on gun ownership in the face of sustained and strident opposition by the National Rifle Association and its Re-



Michelle Scully, left, smiles at Carol Kingsley on hearing the court ruling in San Francisco. Both women were widowed by the same gunman

publican supporters. In November 1993, President Clinton signed the Brady Bill, which imposed a five-day waiting period on the purchase of a handgun and provided for a

national computer network to check buyers. The Bill, named after James Brady, the White House press secretary who was wounded seriously in the assassination attempt on Pres-

ident Reagan, has prevented only several hundred prospective buyers. Nineteen types of assault weapons were banned under the crime Bill last year and several Democrats lost

their seats after endorsing it. Gun sales have continued to increase by as much as 60 per cent. Latest estimates show that there are 222 million weapons in America for 252

million people. The rifle association claims that while most Americans supported the Brady Bill, the population wants tighter controls on criminals rather than guns.

Suspected godfather is shot in New York

BY BEN MACINTYRE

A REPUTED godfather in one of New York's most powerful Mafia families has been shot and critically injured in a Manhattan street in what police say is the first attempted assassination of an important gangland figure since John Gotti was imprisoned three years ago.

The attempted murder on Monday of John "Handsome Jack" Giordano, a henchman of Gotti and a known capo in the Gambino crime family, may signal a renewed power struggle within or between New York's Mafia gangs.

Giordano, 53, also known as "The Actor", was shot three times in the back and left paralysed after visiting a patient in a hospital on New York's Upper East Side. He was getting into his chauffeur-driven limousine when a gunman in a white Cadillac drove past, firing at least six times before speeding away. An unidentified Hispanic man was arrested in Harlem in connection with the shooting shortly afterwards.

Legacy of FDR under siege from Gingrich

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

It is ironic that Americans are observing the 50th anniversary of the death of Franklin Roosevelt today as they witness a quest for power by Newt Gingrich, an admirer of his style who nonetheless is trying to trim or abolish social programmes that began with FDR's New Deal.

Roosevelt died of a cerebral haemorrhage at the age of 63, just three weeks and four days before VE Day. He was one of the most remarkable men to occupy the White House. A patrician Democrat, he was also the founder of the modern imperial presidency under which extraordinary power has accrued to the executive branch of government at the expense of the legislative branch in Congress.

Now, the Republican, Mr. Gingrich has set about challenging much of that power and restoring some of it to Congress from his position as Speaker of the House of Representatives. In promoting the Bills in his *Contract With America*, Mr. Gingrich borrowed a famous quote of Roosevelt's — "Our generation has a rendezvous with destiny" — in referring to the budget crisis that lies ahead.

Many Democrats have ridiculed Mr. Gingrich's assumption of Roosevelt's mantle. Roosevelt's 100 days were to help all the people, they say, while Mr. Gingrich's 100 days were for the benefit only of the privileged.

Mr. Roosevelt came to office in 1933 in desperate times. The United States was mired in the Depression, with one out of four breadwinners out of work. In short order, he set about putting Americans back to work with sweeping programmes of social reform and economic stimulation. He launched social security, subsidies to farmers and a new welfare programme to feed and clothe the nation's needy.

Now, Mr. Gingrich and his fellow House Republicans want to cut back welfare sharply, to force its recipients to work for benefits and to

chop away at an array of government regulations that owe their existence to Roosevelt's 100 days.

Roosevelt was resourceful. He was an inspiring leader and he had a majority in Congress that was eager to endorse his rescue plan. Mr. Gingrich is, also, resourceful and he leads a band of loyal Republicans. How effective his plans will be in the long run remains to be seen.

They have yet to pass in the Senate, where Mr. Gingrich's writ does not run, and President Clinton has served notice that he will use his veto power to block parts of the *Contract With America* legislation. Next year's election is, however, likely to become a referendum

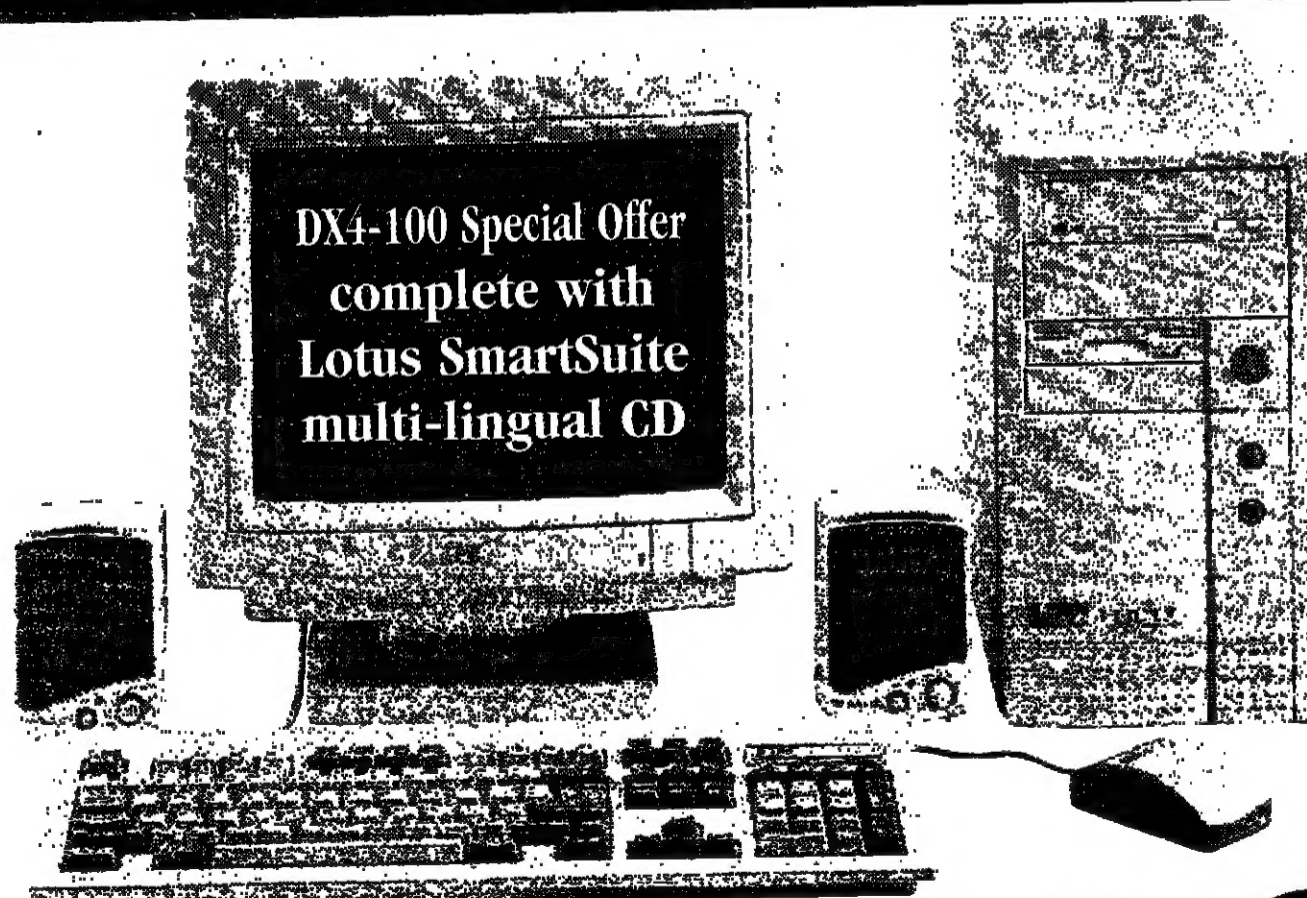


Roosevelt: founder of modern presidency

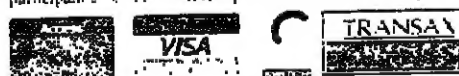
dum on the document and if a Republican wins the White House it will probably be with the assurance that Mr. Gingrich's plans will pass.

Mr. Clinton is still trying to find his place in the new reality. Presidents can only be effective if they have a strong mandate to govern. Unlike Roosevelt, the present occupant of the White House does not have the savvy or clout to bend the federal government and Congress to his will. **London memorial:** William Crowe, the United States Ambassador to Britain, will lay a wreath at the Roosevelt Memorial in Grosvenor Square, London, to mark the former President's death.

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Seriously rich read all about the pain in gain

BY BEN MACINTYRE

DOES the thickness of your wallet cause you pain? Do you gaze across your rolling acres and wish you had never won the lottery? Do you, in short, have too much money?

If so, you should subscribe to *More Than Money*, a quarterly published in America and aimed at people like you who are having trouble coming to terms with "the blessings and dilemmas of affluence".

No one said it was going to be easy being a millionaire, and those burdened by their assets are a growing but often forgotten minority, according to Allen Hancock, the publisher of the newsletter, which is a snip at \$35 a year and printed on recycled US currency.

Mr Hancock was just 22 in 1988 when he inherited \$500,000 from his oil-rich grandfather, but his newfound wealth left him feeling

isolated, embarrassed and outnumbered. No, Mr Hancock did not give all his money away, but instead set up *More Than Money* as a non-profit publication to help fellow sufferers survive their riches. First published in 1993 to just 350 subscribers, the circulation has rapidly increased as millionaires become ever more common in American society.

At least two million Americans have fortunes worth more than \$1 million and over the next 20 years the baby-boomer generation will inherit approximately \$4,800 billion, according to a recent Cornell University study.

One third of that wealth will go to just 1 per cent of the population, among whom the average inheritance will be some \$16 million. That is going to create a lot of stress and even unhappiness, Mr Hancock argues.

IPC CENTRE

Talk to the experts

Russian UN commander is sacked in Croatia

FROM MARK HEINRICH IN ZAGREB

THE Russian commander of UN peacekeepers in a Serb-held enclave of Croatia was dismissed yesterday for profiteering and collaborating with local rebels, United Nations officials said.

Major-General Aleksandr Perezhynin, the commander of Russian and Belgian troops in eastern Croatia, was sacked for gross misconduct three weeks before he was due to be replaced by a Belgian officer. "This decision was taken in view of the severe shortcomings in the performance of General Perezhynin... [involving] discipline and morale problems in his sector," said Michael Williams, the chief UN spokesman in the former Yugoslavia. He said the UN hierarchy had lost patience with the general's "repeated inability to exhibit acceptable

standards of leadership and his failure to improve on these shortcomings once they were brought to his attention."

Mr Williams acknowledged that General Perezhynin's dismissal was linked to Russian profiteering and the unauthorised movement of Serb forces over Croatia's borders.

UN sources confirmed Croatian complaints that the Russians had sold the peacekeepers' fuel and other contraband to the Serbs in violation of a UN embargo, and turned a blind eye to military traffic crossing the Danube border with Yugoslavia.

General Perezhynin was the first senior UN officer to be dismissed from the peacekeeping mission for negligence and corruption since it arrived in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslav



A schoolgirl weeps at the funeral in Sarajevo yesterday of Maja Dokic, 18, who was killed by Bosnian Serb shelling

Republic of Macedonia. Western sources said the general and the Russian Government had blocked previous attempts to remove him, sparked by the 775-man Belgian battalion under his authority. "There

has been very bad blood between Belgian peacekeepers and the Russians who held the 1994-95 command. The Russians have been corrupt as hell," one said. The Croatian Government has repeatedly

pilloried the 870-strong Russian battalion based in the easternmost pocket of the rebel Krajina enclave, accusing it of bias towards the separatist Serbs since they are fellow Orthodox Slavs. Western

sources said that tensions boiled over last month when General Perezhynin forced the Belgians to dismantle a fortified checkpoint on a Danube bridge to ease Serb movements. (Reuters)

Allies divided on tactical response to Serb pressure

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

PEACEKEEPERS, diplomats and observers are split on how to deal with the Bosnian Serbs, who have been in the diplomatic shadows since rejecting peace proposals by the five-nation Contact Group last July.

Dissension revolves around whether isolating the Serbs will force them to yield ground at the negotiating table or will drive them to play their strongest card — their military superiority over the Sarajevo Government.

Representatives from Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States were to meet with President Milosevic of Serbia late yesterday. Their current proposal calls for Serbia and Montenegro to join the international community in recognising Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Though it is improbable that Mr Milosevic will subscribe to the plan, it may succeed in further isolating the Bosnian Serbs.

From the evidence, the Bosnian Serbs are stepping up what pressure they are able to put on the international com-

munity. However, recent shelling attacks on Sarajevo residential neighbourhoods were not repeated yesterday, probably because Nato war planes were on standby to prevent a repeat.

Sarajevo airport, the capital's lifeline, remained closed for the fourth successive day and there is little chance that it will reopen soon. Serb gunners shot at a US relief plane on landing and take-off last Friday and have since made a "camouflaged threat" against further flights attempting to use the airport.

Its closure may thwart the Contact Group visit to Sarajevo planned for today. The UN is requesting permission to take the diplomats into the city by road, but it is not certain that the Serbs will consent.

There is also no sign that the Serbs will release eight Western nationals they are holding outside Sarajevo. Four French aid workers and an American have been under arrest for five weeks. Two Swiss journalists and a German relief officer have been held for ten days.

Athenians past and present smile down on clean-up

FROM JOHN CARR IN ATHENS

PERICLES, the most celebrated of classical Athenian statesmen, would certainly have approved; so, apparently, do plenty of modern-day citizens who, since Monday, have been able to browse in a traffic-free commercial city centre.

In an unprecedented example of co-operation between the Greek Socialist Government and the conservative-led Athens municipality, private cars, taxis and motorcycles have been banned from a

triangle of central Athens almost exactly corresponding to the north-eastern corner of the classical city. Three days after the closure of the Triangle, as it has been dubbed, most people like it. On Monday, as traffic police turned away motorcyclists, taxi drivers and motorists

lema. At least one British tourist told a Greek reporter that the district reminded her of London's Covent Garden.

The ever-watchful local media pointed out the almost complete absence of the furious arguments that Greek motorists, usually clearly in the wrong, love to have with traffic police. As it happens, private cars are allowed to traverse some streets in the Triangle, but penalties for parking include a £30 fine and a 20-day driving ban. To

add to the Triangle's attractions, the Government has laid on a free minibus service for shoppers. The traffic-free zone, although first mooted more than 20 years ago, is the work of Kostas Kallias, the Socialist Environment Minister, and Dimitris Avramopoulos, the conservative Athens Mayor. But the latter, with unaccustomed modesty, insisted that "a lot of people can share the credit for this".

The only sour note has come from the Athens taxi drivers, who are furious that any Government has had the temerity to ban them from anything. They pulled their battered yellow cabs off the roads for the day on Tuesday in a mass protest against plans to extend bus-only lanes, from which they are already banned, beyond the city centre.



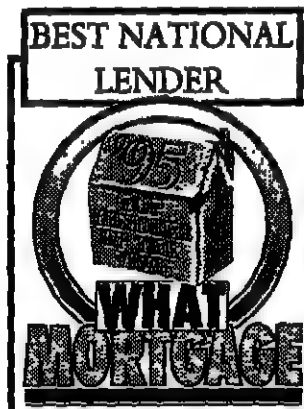
Pericles would have approved of plan

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Arafat sets out to disarm militants

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN GAZA CITY

AFTER sporadic exchanges of gunfire, midnight round-ups of suspects and two assassination attempts on a Palestinian intelligence chief, the Palestinian Authority led by Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, said yesterday it would begin the forcible disarmament of Islamic militants.

Before leaving for crisis talks with President Mubarak of Egypt, Fathi Abu Medeen, the Palestinian Justice Minister, said: "There is a decision to confiscate all illegal arms. I think we are entering a critical stage. People are shooting whoever they wish... We will not allow this."

Faced with a warning from Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, that the crackdown in which 200 militants have been arrested, had already crossed the "red line", Abu Medeen said defiantly that an ultimatum would be issued and that rifles would be seized. Personal weapons or pistols retained by the militants would have to be registered.

In a tinderbox atmosphere of mutual suspicion, a Hamas spokesman declared it held "the Palestinian Authority and its leader fully responsible for the catastrophic results that could follow".

The crackdown on members of Hamas and Islamic Jihad has reawakened fears of a civil war in the impoverished Gaza Strip, where the dismal failure of the 1993 peace accord to improve living standards has raised frustration to dangerous levels.

Haidar Abdel Shafi, a leading Gaza politician said that the threatened disarming of the militias was "the eventual reality everybody is dreading". A local hotelier said: "We are all very frightened."

Many supporters of the two Islamic groups have shaved off their beards and gone into hiding in an attempt to avoid the raids by armed Palestinian police. On two occasions in the early hours of yesterday, gun battles erupted between the pro-Arafat police and the Islamic gunmen they were pursuing. After one dawn shoot-out, scores of Islamic activists took briefly to the streets shouting the muslim war-cry *Allahu Akbar* (God is greater).

"The tension is great," said Esa el-Qarra, a senior United Nations official. "You never know what is going to happen over the next 24 hours. There is resentment among the families of those who have been arrested and hunted down. Some people feel that the



An armed Palestinian policeman shouts at a taxi driver who failed to obey an order to stop at a roadblock yesterday

activities [of the police] are too similar to what used to happen when the Israelis were here before last May [when Palestinian self-rule started]. Gaza's new Egyptian-style

security court went into secret session on Monday night and sentenced only the second Islamic suspect to be tried. This time it was a 29-year old mosque preacher, Omar

Shalah, who was given a life sentence for inciting Islamic terrorist attacks. Beersheba: The heart, lungs, liver and kidneys of Alisa Flatow, 20, an American

student who was killed by a suicide bomb attack in the Gaza Strip on Sunday, were donated yesterday to help six Israelis at the request of her father. (AP)

Buthelezi backs Winnie Mandela over dismissal

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

WINNIE MANDELA, the estranged wife of the South African President, has won support from an unlikely source in her lawsuit against her husband.

Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Home Minister and leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party, submitted an affidavit yesterday backing Mrs Mandela's claim that her sacking from the Government a fortnight ago was unlawful and unconstitutional.

Mrs Mandela's lawyers have issued summons to President Mandela and to Brigitte Mabandla, who succeeded her as deputy minister for Arts, Culture, Science and Technology. Dr Willie Seethi, a Pretoria solicitor, said that an application seeking Mrs Mandela's reinstatement has been filed in the Pretoria Supreme Court. The President and Mrs Mabandla have been given until tomorrow to oppose the application.

The President's Office has insisted that the constitution gave him the right to appoint or dismiss ministers and deputy ministers. The constitution makes it plain, however, that "the President shall after consultation with the Executive Deputy Presidents and the leaders of the participating parties... terminate any appointment... if it becomes necessary... in the interests of good government".

Chief Buthelezi's affidavit denies that he was ever consulted, which the constitution stipulates since he is leader of a party in the Government. Mrs Mandela also wants the President to tell her why he

dismissed her on March 27, and she is demanding access to all information that formed the basis of her dismissal.

"Unless I am provided with all such information which justifies the... act taken against me, I will not be in a position to evaluate any of the allegations upon which such a dismissal is premised, and I will thus not be able to protect any of my rights or interests in that regard."

Senior members of the African National Congress have explained that Mrs Mandela was dismissed because she flouted the President's ban on her travelling abroad when she visited West Africa. Mrs Mandela has argued that she was within her rights to do so.

She remains a member of the ANC, an MP, and leader of the ANC Women's League. Last week the ANC censured her for threatening legal action, saying that she could raise her objections through party structures.



Mandela: demands an explanation for sacking

Iraq 'tried to produce biological weapons'

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

UNITED Nations weapons inspectors have dashed Iraq's hopes of an early end to the oil embargo by accusing Baghdad of hiding an attempt to make biological weapons.

The UN Special Commission, set up to disarm Iraq after the Gulf War, said Baghdad had imported tonnes of "complex growth media" and other items from 1983 to 1990 to produce biological warfare agents such as anthrax.

In its six-monthly report to the UN Security Council, the commission said Baghdad was refusing to provide a full account of its military biological programme.

"With Iraq's failure to account for the use of these items and materials for legitimate purposes, the only conclusion that can be drawn is that there is a high risk that they had been purchased and used for a proscribed purpose - acquisition of a biological warfare agent," the report said.

The commission said that, in 1988 alone, Iraq had imported 39 tonnes of "complex growth media" of the type that can be used to manufacture bacteria or viruses for biological weapons.

Inspectors have located for 22 tonnes of the growth media and placed it under surveillance, but 17 tonnes remain unaccounted for. Iraq claims that the missing growth media was distributed to hospitals and destroyed after the war.

Rwandans cut off aid to refugees

Kigali: Rwandan authorities yesterday cut off United Nations food supply lines for Hutu refugees in Zaïre. The move is against the international community's failure to stop arms supplies and training for Hutu extremists (Sam Kiley writes).

Loaning carrying 2,000 tonnes of food for the refugees, who fled retribution for their part in the genocide of Tutsis and Hutu moderates last year, were halted at the Gisenyi and Cyangugu border crossings.

Mugabe count

Harare: President Mugabe's Zanu (PF) party won 118 of 120 constituencies in Zimbabwe's election. Only Ndabaningi Sithole, an opposition veteran, and a colleague defeated Zanu (PF) candidates. Another 30 MPs will be appointed.

Missionary dies

Freetown: Rebels in Sierra Leone killed Edward Kerrigan, 57, an Irish missionary, in an ambush on his way between Freetown, the capital, and the southern town of Bo, the Catholic Mission said. (Reuters)

Unicef chief

New York: The United States has won the diplomatic tussle with the European Union over control of Unicef, the United Nations Children's Fund, with the appointment of a former New York politician, Carol Bellamy, to head the agency.

Flipping alligator puts Israeli court in spin

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN TEL AVIV

AMID cries of "This is torture!" from animal lovers thronging an Israeli court, Jim Moulton, an American, grappled with a small alligator, flipped it over and knocked it unconscious.

"The alligator trainer was flown over from Florida this week by the owners of a local alligator farm to prove the innocence of their alligator wrestling show, under fire from animal rights activists."

"There has been no damage so far to any of the alligators, just to people," Mr Moulton assured District Court Judge Hila Gertler. He said he had trained three Israeli wrestlers who, for the past 18 months, have been staging a daily 30-minute show at the Hamat Gader farm in Israel.

Judge Gertler urged the expert witness to exhibit his craft at a distance, pleading, "Not so close, please," when he tried to approach the bench, alligator in hand. Mr

Moulton placed the alligator on a table about six feet from the bench.

Dressed in jeans and red T-shirt, Mr Moulton suddenly mounted the table and straddled the three-foot alligator's back as spectators rose to their feet. The animal writhed for about five minutes. Mr Moulton then flipped it over and pinched a nerve under its neck, knocking it out. He assured the judge that the animal felt no pain.

Yoram Halevi, a lawyer representing the "Let the Animals Live" lobby group, was unimpressed. "That one minute when they turn the alligator over is nothing but torture," he said.

Judge Gertler promised a decision by next week. Dalia Plesosof, a lawyer representing Hamat Gader, said: "This is the kind of animal that you make bets and bags out of. At least here, the animal is alive and well."

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Maverick Chen leaves gap in 'Immortals'



Chen Yun, left, the reformist economic planner, with Zhao Ziyang, former Communist Party Secretary, in 1987

Death of Chinese elder a test for young guard

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHEN YUN, China's most senior revolutionary leader and the Communist Party's leading economist, has died in Peking aged 90. For more than 40 years he stood up to Mao and Deng Xiaoping, the paramount leader, when he believed their policies were lessening the country towards disaster.

Mr Chen, whose death was announced late on Monday, was one of the "Immortals", the elite band includes Mr Deng, Peng Zhen, the former Mayor of Peking, Yang Shiguan, the former President Bo Yibo, an ideologue, and Deng Xiaoping, a military veteran. Mr Deng, 90, and Mr Son, 91, are in poor health.

The "Immortals" are rapidly losing from the scene. Most of their immediate heirs, skilled at sycophancy and manoeuvre, have only in the last year or two begun to understand that China's crisis — corruption, backwardness and poverty — will be alleviated either by Maoist violence, not Dengist greed.

At some of China's "young leaders" are middle-aged officials who were at Chen Yun's side when he was struggling to reform the economy. They recall him saying in 1979: "The people demand justice. The say 'You cadres have

already been rewarded for your suffering. Why must we people go on suffering without end? Unless we win the confidence of the entire country there can be no resolution."

Mr Chen's death will test whether Mr Deng's ambitious policy of forcing the elders into retirement to enable young



Chen as a young cadre in the Communist Party

blood to consolidate their positions has taken hold. There are very few in the 50 million-member party or the population generally who have ever dared to challenge policy, much less one of the revolutionary giants. Mr Chen was one of a tiny band who tried, and survived to continue their

political careers. Mr Deng spent most of his life climbing the party's slippery ladder by agreeing with his elders.

Mr Chen was a unique survivor of fundamental contradictions. His basic criticisms of Maoism — the communes, the commandism, the personality cult — are now seen as wisdom. His warnings about the potential for social corruption of Mr Deng's reforms are more difficult to praise while the senior leader lives. But during the past year, the Chen view has, by implication, begun to force policy revision.

One reason for Mr Chen's survival and continuing position near the centre of power was his lack of personal ambition. The rubric "conservative" is generally attached to him and is already part of his epitaph. This gives the impression of a heavy-handed neo-Maoist, a doctrinaire centraliser, who led the opposition to Mr Deng's reforms.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Mr Chen was at the centre of the group of party grandees who brought Mr Deng back from his second Mao-imposed exile after the Chairman's death in 1976, and was at Mr Deng's right hand as the 1979 reforms

evolved. The group was determined never to repeat the Cultural Revolution and to erase the notion that poverty equalled virtue.

Within a decade of the Communist triumph in 1949, Mr Chen was advocating economic notions such as the return of land to the peasants and decreasing party control over rural production. By 1961 he was advocating smashing the Maoist "iron rice bowl" — guaranteed jobs regardless of production — price reform, and market regulation, which are today regarded as hallmarks of the Deng reforms.

In his final years, Mr Chen was notorious for his rivalry with Mr Deng. The standing joke was that neither was willing to die first.

Mr Chen's legacy lies in his honesty, minimal personal ambition, and conviction that poverty and backwardness were plagues, not badges of Maoist merit. But he did not subscribe to Mr Deng's notion that to get rich is glorious. Throughout the 1980s, he saw growing corruption and peasants drifting into commerce and away from producing food, as the greatest perils to the revolutionary dream and the nation.

Obituary, page 19

Baghdad 'holds key' to Kurd conflict

OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A SENIOR American official said Ankara yesterday that a three-week incursion into Iraq by 32,000 Turkish troops would not stop rebels of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) from fighting for a homeland in Turkey.

Since Talbott, the US Deputy Secretary of State, told a university audience after meeting Erdal Inonu, the Turkish Foreign Minister, that a long-term solution to the rebel threat along Turkey's southern border lay with a



Talbott: Turkish assault will not stop PKK rebels

new political order in Baghdad, the capital of Iraq. "In the meantime only the Iraqi Kurds can control the border and prevent the PKK from infiltrating into Turkey," he said.

In Turkey eastern province of Tunceli yesterday, army officers said that troops supported by their power had killed about 100 rebels in the past three days as part of a sweep closer to home. The Turkey describes as being on a par with the incursion into Iraq. Three soldiers were also killed, the officers said.

FBI casts eye on crying Madonna

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

Italian magistrates have asked the FBI to investigate reports that a statue of the Madonna in the port of Civitavecchia has been weeping blood. The accounts have started a holy war between church authorities and sceptical investigators, who believe a charlatan may be at work.

Yesterday the Pope was quoted as criticising the magistrates who have impounded the figurine inside a cupboard, preventing its veneration by tens of thousands of pilgrims who have converged on the port.

The statue, a mass-produced model, bought at the Medjugorje shrine in the former Yugoslavia, is owned by Fabio Gregori, an electricity worker, who said it wept red tears.

Officially, the Pope and the Vatican have maintained a cautious silence on the affair, leaving it to the Bishop of Civitavecchia, Mgr Girolamo Grillo, to organise scientific tests to determine the veracity of the miracle.

Yesterday, however, Mgr Grillo quoted the Pope as comparing the magistrates to Communist authorities in the pontiff's Polish homeland who in 1967 seized a copy of the icon of the black Madonna of Czestochowa, Poland's most sacred shrine. The Pope made the comparison during lunch with his friend and countryman Cardinal Andrzej Maria Deskur, Mgr Grillo said.

The Vatican followed its usual practice and did not deny the bishop's remarks since, as a matter of policy, it does not comment on matters discussed in private conversations. The people of Civitavecchia hope, however, that the Pope's private views will help them turn the port into the Italian equivalent of the

French shrine at Lourdes. Vatican sources speculated that Cardinal Deskur, 71, disclosed the details of the Pope's remarks to Mgr Grillo.

Last week on national television the cardinal claimed that the figurine had wept in front of him: "I had just finished saying morning Mass, and my sister, two Romanians and I were praying together. I was holding the Madonna in my hands when red liquid began to trickle from her eyes."

The statue has already been subjected to a barrage of tests by experts for possible trickery, including dissection by scans and laser beams. Doctors at the Gemelli Polyclinic hospital in Rome, where the Pope receives treatment, confirmed that the tears were of male human blood, but magistrates are keeping the statue for more rigorous tests. They want to compare the blood found on it with that of its owner, Signor Gregori, and that of his relatives.

The statue at Civitavecchia is one of a constellation of weeping Madonnas reported in towns around Italy, some of which have proved to be the work of cheats. A company in Florence is reported to have sold small valves that can be hidden behind the eyes of a statue, filled with liquid and made to "cry" by radio control.

Cardinal Deskur evidently expressed papal support in the fight against the sceptics on Monday when he attended a service at Civitavecchia Cathedral in which the faithful prayed for the release of the statue. During an address by the cardinal, members of the congregation interrupted with cries of "long live the bishop" and "Viva Maria".

Vegetable vaccines give taste of future

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

ONE day vaccinating against cholera may be as simple as peeling a banana.

American scientists have produced a potato that can provide mice with the antibodies to protect them against hepatitis B. In future, they believe, fruit and vegetables may be used to deliver vaccines against several diseases.

Dr Hugh Mason of Texas A and M University, and colleagues, report in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* that they have successfully introduced into the potato a gene for a protein normally made by the hepatitis B virus. When grown, the potato contains the protein.

Mice fed on the genetically-modified potato absorb the protein through their gut into the bloodstream, where it stimulates antibodies. "The idea is to produce an edible plant which contains genes that cause it to produce antigens," Dr Mason said. "We hope that many such vaccines could be developed."

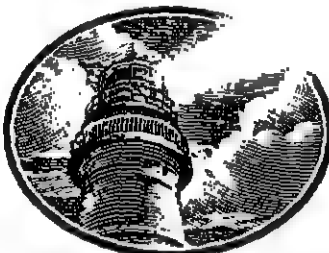
Many scientific teams around the world are working on plants as vaccine factories. Dr Tom Turpen, of Biosource Technologies, a California company, recently reported success in producing a malaria vaccine from tobacco leaves, and estimated that less than two acres of tobacco could produce more than 500lbs of vaccine a month.

Dr Mason said it could be at least ten years before edible vaccines were tested. The World Health Organization estimates that about two million children die annually from diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio and measles, which can be prevented by vaccines.

Income
£100.90 a week
Outgoings
£276.70 a week
So how are you going to make ends meet?

April 13, *unlucky for some. Because tomorrow the new rules on State incapacity benefit announced in the 1993 Autumn Budget come into effect. Which means that, if you fall ill and have to rely on State incapacity benefit, you could be in serious financial trouble.*

The chances of it happening to you are greater than you think. The fact is, at any one time, over one million people are off work for longer than six months owing to accident or illness. And, if you're one of them, after six months incapacity you could have as little as £100.90 a week coming in to support your family. With an average weekly expenditure of around £276, it could mean you and your family face either a drastic change in lifestyle or financial difficulties from which it could take years to recover.



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Average weekly household expenditure	
Food	£50.00
Housing	£44.80
Motoring expenditure and fares	£43.20
Leisure goods and services	£38.80
Household goods and services	£38.50
Clothing and footwear	£17.40
Fuel, light and power	£13.20
Alcoholic drink	£11.90
Personal goods and services	£11.00
Tobacco	£ 3.00
Miscellaneous	£ 2.10
Average expenditure per week	£276.70*
State incapacity benefit (for a family of four)	£100.90

* Based on Family Expenditure Survey 1993, Social Trends 25, Central Statistical Office. © Crown copyright 1995. All amounts rounded to nearest 10p.

As you can see, there is potentially a drastic shortfall of around £176, which would mean you wouldn't be able to make ends meet.

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The word is out on Fashion Avenue, and it is chic: understated, unadulterated, cut-to-the-bone chic



Left, MICHAEL KORS: A neat fit. Right, ISAAC MIZRAHI: Taffeta trench

Just one look is all it took

At the end of Ralph Lauren's latest fashion show, Glenn Close's rendition of *With One Look* (the theme song from the Broadway hit musical *Sunset Boulevard*) was played over and over and over again. Which is pretty much what the American designers offered for autumn/winter 1995/96 in New York last week — one look, over and over.

There were few surprises (especially by the tail-end of the week) as the designers played a new parlour game called: Pass-the-Pattern-Piece up and down Fashion Avenue. Show after show featured matching modes for the Manhattan moderate. Identikit outfits which were all neat, tidy and ever-so polite.

The Americans like clothes which are easy, and what could be easier than a silhouette as sleek as any stretch limousine, or fabrics as traditional as the values preached by Republican politicians? On every catwalk there were chic little suits and dresses in herringbone,hound's-tooth check and Donegal tweed; trouser suits in grey flannel and pin-stripe; overcoats in



Fashion
by
IAIN R.
WEBB

cashmere and vicuna; and elegant evening wear in silk gazar, duchess satin, paper taffeta and sequins.

The prevailing trends may well have worn a little thin by day three — the colour palette rarely strayed beyond black, grey, camel, chocolate brown, ivory, and a flash of fiery red — yet this did not stop the designers sending out some great clothes. In some cases, really sensational clothes.

Ralph Lauren produced one of his best collections yet. Shapely suits, with skirts which invariably hit the knee, closely followed the body's curves, while masculine tailoring was a case of Lauren Bacall meets Savile Row. The designer took old favourites and turned them into something new: a snug polo-neck sweater was elongated to become a dress, and a coat resembling a bathrobe was cut

in black and white check-board wool. Lauren followed the former First Lady Nancy Reagan's advice and just said no to superfluous styling. Even accessories were kept to the absolute minimum: a pair of gloves, dark glasses, and classic court shoes (the shoe for next winter).

After dark, the designer really shone with a cashmere halterneck dress, dressed up with nothing more than a sequinned cardigan. Effortless chic.

Another designer who subscribes to the less-is-more ethos is Calvin Klein. There was nothing fancy about his latest collection: it was a masterpiece of minimalism. Silhouettes were rigorously restrained, devoid of extraneous detailing. Collarless, round-necked jackets stopping short of the hip featured three-quarter length sleeves. Another was little more than a fitted, plain knit cardigan — an example of Klein's passion for the practical and pure.

Klein's evening wear was simply the best, carefree couture. A slim, black jacket worn with an even slimmer skirt, or a strapless column, belted neatly at the waist.



Left, CALVIN KLEIN: Making less look more — minimalist chic. Right, RALPH LAUREN: Back to the working wardrobe — traditional tweeds get an update

Michael Kors's collection shared the same spirit of spare luxury. Clipped suits, easy shirt-coats, sleek tunic dresses, and slim cigarette pants in smoke tweed, pearl and ivory cashmere, caramel suede, camel and scarlet melton, chocolate silk and lots of black. Kors referred to his collection as "smart fashion", a concept which combines comfort with elegance. And so it was throughout the week, with

designers putting their personal spin on the established American sportswear classics. Isaac Mizrahi has made his reputation doing just that. A designer with a mischievous mind and a masterful touch, he took a straightforward trenchcoat, cut it in iridescent silk taffeta, and turned it into the most modern-looking ballgown. A camel-hair coat, pared down to the bare bones, becomes an elegant column

dress, while a sensible pea coat sparkles when covered with scarlet sequins. Totally tongue-in-chic.

This season the American designers are mad for soigné sobriety. Even the wild bunch — Marc Jacobs, Anna Sui and Mis Miu — offered their interpretation of conservative chic with pleated, knee-length skirts, belted shirtwaister dresses, suits, slim-fit shirts and sweaters. With a nod to

1960s Mod, they continued such unlikely references as Jackie O and *The Liver Birds*. Patrick Robinson for Anne Klein, Richard Tyler, Donna Karan (in her mainline and DKNY secondary lines), Bill Blass and Basco provided plenty of perfectly smart options, while Ghost opted for a new look altogether for them, anyway.

The Ghost collection of gentle suits and sophisticated

evening gowns was a departure for the British label, known for its casual, comfortable, crumpled clothes. Their latest ladylike look was not only appropriate to its setting (the Ghost show was held in the Oyster Bar, at Grand Central Station, where models wandered between the tables, but was also entirely in keeping with the guarded glamour which is sweeping South Avenue. Die-hard chic.



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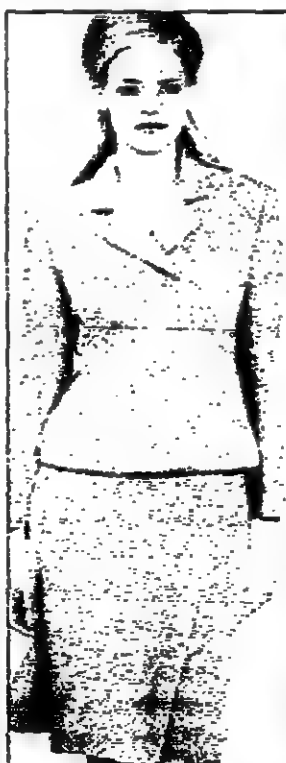
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A world of perfectly
wearable possibilities:
(from left to right)

MIU MIU: A camel suit
for any occasion.
ANNE KLEIN: Steak
but essentially
sensible separates.
DONNA KARAN: Makes
dressing up simple.

Painting the Big Apple
red: (second right)
RICHARD TYLER:
Red-hot tailoring.
(Far right) GHOST:
Dramatic new statement

Photographs by
CHRIS MOORE and
ANDREW THOMAS



● THE NEW way to wear your coat is to simply slip it around your shoulders. Modelling the look off the catwalk were *Vogue* editors Anna Wintour (America) and Joan Juliet Buck (France).

● STRONG eyebrows are back. For the DKNY show, the make-up artist Kevyn Aucoin drew exaggerated pencil-thin lines through the models' brows, while for Todd Oldham's show he shaped a high-arched brow.

● THOSE who complained the shows were not exciting enough only had to wait to see Geoffrey Beene's "American Primitive" dance extravaganza, which offered dramatic ballerina-length

diaper skirts and a bevy of sexy evening gowns. Bravo, Mr Beene.

● AS THE New York designers' fascination with minimalism sees fashion shrink to the bare bones, the zip fastener makes a reappearance, ensuring a really tight fit for their streamlined outfits.

● ALTHOUGH the supermodels Naomi Campbell, Elle Macpherson and Claudia Schiffer are referred to as the "owners" of New York's new Fashion Café, there is much speculation as to their actual involvement. Rumour has it the trio have been paid their weight in hamburgers to add some superglamour to the venture.

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**An Easter
Message**

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Prayerfully & steadily we wish you all the blessings of Easter and the pleasures of Spring.

Sister Superior

The National Trust has no difficulty finding craftsmen, but what about the man in the street?

How we can avoid the artful bodger

One of April's many cruelties is to bring together the season for visiting great houses and the season for patching up little ones. How many people at this time of year dig out their National Trust membership cards, set off to visit some immaculate ducal pile and find themselves shamed into vowing not to let their own rotting windows and peeling paintwork see another summer?

Indoors it's even worse. The gleam of polished oak and intricate marquetry is muted by protective blinds at the windows of these houses, but the visitor returns home to find malicious sunbeams playing on every bit of dust-caking, blistered veneer, grungy gilding and missing mosaic in his home.

At one time the British cult of stately chic was underpinned by a genuine dearth of people with the skills to put these things right, but that excuse is now dead and buried. When Octavia Hill co-founded the National Trust 100 years ago she could not have foreseen how many of these crafts would simply die out in Britain from the 1930s to the 1970s, but nor could she have imagined the scale of their revival — largely thanks to the efforts of her trust — through the 1980s and 1990s.

Next week the results of the £20 million restoration programme of Uppark and its contents will be shown off to the press, although it will be June before the public can visit. Aspley House will also be opened to the public in June, after restoration costing £6 million to get

it back into the sort of shape the Duke of Wellington would have approved. That's an awful lot of employment for carvers, gilders, cabinet-makers, ornamental plasterers and the like in those two houses alone.

Uppark employed about 500 craftspeople to make good the damage caused by the fire in 1989, and contracts for repairing the contents of the house kept 31 different workshops busy. Less impressively, the restoration also provided work for another 500 clerks, bureaucrats and lawyers: such are the late 20th-century constraints on those who try to be creative and constructive with old artefacts. But we shouldn't cavil too much in this case, since they battled successfully through the courts to get the whole bill paid by the insurers of the two roofers who started the thing off in the first place by being careless with their blowtorches.

Some will say that, at that price, Uppark should have been let go. Having recently visited the Royal Pavilion at Brighton to see how the apparently endless restoration programme was getting on

there, I must admit that if that absurdly overdressed Chinese restaurant of a folly were mine I should have applied the Mr Polly dictum — "A large number of houses deserve to be burnt" — long before an arsonist took the same view in 1975. John Nash may have left us some of the prettiest buildings in London,



MARGOT NORMAN

but when it came to realising his royal patron's extravagant fantasy in Brighton he was no better than an artful bodger. He simply covered up Henry Holland's original villa with a Heath Robinsonesque scaffold and then plastered success over iron sheeting nailed to timber cladding. A theatre designer would do no less for a temporary opera set. Needless to

say, the place has leaked since the day he finished it.

In some cases it is the aesthete's view, not the accountant's, that makes strenuous restoration look indefensible. I'm talking about all the senses here. Down at the Clergy House in Alfriston, for instance, Octavia Hill's successors are taking a strictly historicist view with the first property acquired by the National Trust. It is a 13th-century house, and they are insisting on a 13th-century mixture of chalk and sour milk in which to embed the floor. It takes three months to set and stop stinking. Might this, one wonders, be taking things too far?

When the stately-home visitor gets home to his own little restoration project what he needs is some sound, realistic advice. Over his own dead body would he commit the sin of the UPVC windows, but how should he set about finding a joiner who can mend or replace the existing ones properly? He can't find a chair caner in *Yellow Pages* and he has seen his neighbour's stucco develop eczema after having one of the new "traditional" paints applied over three layers of old Sandtex on the advice of an expensive architect.

Having invested in a whole stack of magazines devoted to the repair and decoration of period properties he has already done more research than he bargained for, but he is still confused. Indeed, all he is really sure of is that he does not want to star in one of their "Mess of the Month" features ridiculing the fellow who has ruined a whole terrace by putting in the wrong sort of neo-Georgian door.

He tries phoning English Heritage and the National Trust, and finds them extremely snuffy about answering such requests for help from the public. They refer him to the local authority planning department, which is no more helpful than you would expect. The Crafts Council finds him a chair caner, and is the only body that actually tries to assist, but its register of 4,000 craftspeople is heavily weighted towards the arts end of the craft spectrum. Perfect if you want to commission a stained glass window, not so good for getting your replacement sashes right.

Where, please, does the average householder who has had his design and authenticity consciousness raised so splendidly by all the heritage organisations go from here? Why, indeed, should he have to go anywhere else since these are the people who know what ought to be done and have the names of those who can do it?

There is a challenge here which I hope English Heritage and/or the National Trust will pick up.

Ben Macintyre breathes easily



Defiant: Uma Thurman in the film *Pulp Fiction*

Defying the smoke police

KING JAMES I would be delighted. New York, purchased from the Manhattan Indians for the price of a caron of Marlboro just three years after his reign ended, has now imposed a wide-ranging ban on what the king called "a custom loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs".

New York has banned smoking in restaurants, and one of the last redoubts of the embattled American smoker has fallen.

The prohibition, imposed on Monday in any restaurant with more than 35 seats, follows a trend throughout America, where one can no longer smoke in most sports stadiums, trains or buses, in your office or the White House. But the resignation with which the new law has been accepted by smoking New Yorkers is truly remarkable. On the first day of the ban, the city's health department received just six formal complaints of individuals lighting-up in restaurants. Instead of following the French example and puffing in the face of the law, nicotine-loving New Yorkers mutely acquiesced, and took to the pavements to smoke in those sad little extra-mural knolls that already assemble outside every New York office.

better than to object. The medical arguments against smoking, whatever the tobacco companies may claim, are incontrovertible, but that does not make the current quasi-religious anti-smoking fervour any more attractive.

As if to prove King James's point that God doesn't like smoking, on the day that the ban came into force, a group of anti-smoking nuns denounced they were putting pressure on the media conglomerate Time Warner to drop all tobacco advertising. The Sisters of the Sorrows Mother own 37,000 shares worth about \$1.4 million (£900,000) in the publishing and entertainment company, and the order has now submitted a resolution to fellow shareholders calling on Time Warner "to develop ethical and moral criteria providing guidelines relating to cigarette advertising".

The merest whiff of smoke is political death these days. On Monday, New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, in a bizarrely familiar refrain, admitted that he had once smoked, but not really. "You're not going to believe this, but I never actually learned how to inhale a cigarette, which is why I then turned to pipes and cigars," the mayor insisted.

A few kippers refusniks hacked out of defiance: "Even Hitler could not stop the German people from smoking," complained Sidney Zion, in the *New York Daily News*.

Some restaurateurs insisted that the ban would reduce their revenues, cause dissension at the bar (where one can still smoke, but only if off away from the nearest table) and baffle chain-smoking Japanese tourists. Most, however, accepted the inevitable and began spending thousands of dollars erecting partitions to corral smokers away from civilised smoking society.

The anti-smoking debate in America has ceased to have much to do with health, or freedom of choice, for the anti-smoking crusade has taken on the mantle of moral orthodoxy. New York's new smoking laws will be enforced, not by some imagined "nicotine police" armed with fire extinguishers, but by non-smoking citizens who can now reach across a table and pluck the snout from your lips with the full backing of the law.

The cowed smoker knows

President Clinton, who helped to make the inhalation of noxious fumes the smoking gun it remains, still chews cigars while playing golf, but he doesn't swallow.

The righteous anti-smoking campaign is having some unwelcome side-effects: smoking is becoming chic again. Rebellious teenagers are taking up the evil weed in ever larger numbers, as senior smokers give up, or die.

FOR years Hollywood ensured that, post-James Dean, the only people with cigarettes dangling were crooks, prostitutes or bent cops, but that may be changing. In *Reality Bites*, and in Quentin Tarantino's movie *Pulp Fiction*, the principal characters smoke endlessly.

But for the time being, anti-smokers can breathe easily. New York's decision to ban smoking in restaurants was not even a matter for debate in yesterday's newspapers. The *New York Times* last week published a letter defending cock-fighting as a constitutional right, but of the smoker's right to die clutching his after-dinner stogie, there was barely a whisper.

The steely bard of Crewe

Giles Coren meets the unknown playwright who is the talk of the West End

West End: *Mares closed* at London's Albany Theatre because a celebrity had disappeared into nowhere, a cycle was set in motion which has brought a playwright from nowhere to the brink of celebrity.

Dennis Lumborg's *One Fine Day* opened a couple of weeks ago to unanimously enthusiastic reviews. "The Times" wrote of its author's "narrative energy, his skill with dramatic speech, his unpretentious humanity", and *The Daily Telegraph* called it "a wise, generous-hearted work".

The play had been a success at the Liverpool Playhouse, and under the guidance of impresario Bill Kenwright it was planned for the West End. The untimely closure of the Stephen Fry vehicle brought the move unexpectedly forward — the programmes were still in Merdour Tydfil on opening night — and precipitated the clamour of acclaim.

But who is Dennis Lumborg? *Unknowns* do not open in the West End, treat serious issues in serious ways (the play is a one-man show about a Liverpool steelworker wrongfully accused of abusing his children), send the critics into raptures, and fill auditoriums. Not in the real world.

Snippets of information had filtered through. Lumborg was forty-ish, a one-time scrap metal dealer and teacher who wrote nothing, as far as we knew, until the late 1980s, but was a friend and protégé of Willy Russell. He had recently shaved his head, and was not keen to discuss the subject matter of his play.

Meeting him, in the empty theatre bar, it soon becomes clear why he does not want to



Dennis Lumborg: "I'd like my writing to be a PR job for the human race. I want people to leave the theatre feeling generous to the world"

talk about child-abuse as an issue in isolation from the play. He is a man who takes his work, rather than himself, very seriously. Never having been interviewed for the national press before he has two concerns: that he should not appear to be some innocent redneck from the provinces enjoying a *succès de scandale* up West, and that the theme of his play should not become all-consuming — as happened to David Mamet's *Oleanna* — ending up as mere fodder for middle-class dinner-party conversations.

That should not be allowed to happen. The play is a genuinely moving observation

of the life of a Northern working man suddenly forced to deal with a crisis. The nightmare forces that militate against him have more to do with Kafka than Esther Rantzen, and Lumborg refuses to enter into disingenuous banter about social ills.

He has none of the luvviness, none of the fraudulence, that is often associated with the stage, and the reason for that, in part, must be that he never figured in his picture of the future. "I was brought up in a family of Welsh Protestants, in a family that saw the theatre as something worldly and unimportant. I never saw a play for years. My dad, like everyone else, was a steelworker. You were just expected to go up to the steelworks every day, and then die. Funny enough, I was quite taken with that — the clogs and the greasy coat — I wanted to be part of it."

"It was a time and place where if you went as far as Chester people thought you would never be seen again, to go to Liverpool was unthinkable." Then, when he was ten, the family emigrated to New Zealand on a free scheme. They were back within three years, nostalgic presumably, for the River Dee — for whenever he mentions it, par-

ticularly in the context of salmon fishing, he comes over all wistful.

Lumborg did not return a fully-formed cosmopolitan young man. It was back to school, to the grammar school, and still no notion of the glittering lights of the theatre until a school trip to London. "They took us to see *Evita*," he remembers, "and my hair just stood on end." He smooths his hand over his bald pate with a smile. "You know what I mean? I know people say it's crap and that — but for me it was just incredible."

That unlikely seed sown, he went back to school and on to a teacher-training college. "I did it mainly because the college was in this ex-RAF H-block building. It was like all those war films where they shoot 'Scramble' and the lads run out. By the time I arrived they had built a new college. I felt a bit cheated."

He persevered and taught for 15 years, garnering useful experience. "The kids give you all your best lines."

"Money wasn't a problem," he says, "because I started a screen-printing business which does pretty well. In the mid-1980s I looked at my life —

the teaching had been good, business was great, and I decided that I wanted to write." He left the school, took a back seat in the business, and began writing television scripts that generated encouraging noises, if no commissions.

It was a chance encounter with Willy Russell's wife, a former college acquaintance, that proved the turning point. "He asked to see some of my scripts, and then told me: 'You're a good writer, Dennis, but you're not a good playwright yet'."

"He encouraged me to try the theatre instead of television, and showed me how important the story was — the craft you can always learn. I got a bursary and put on some plays in the North. I used to talk to him about *One Fine Day* and watching him work

on *Shirley Valentine* helped me to see how a one-man play could work."

When he does discuss the play, he says: "I do not aim at easy targets. I do not attack social workers. There are good and bad people in all walks of life. I'd like my writing to be a PR job for the human race. I want people to leave the theatre feeling generous to the world, that we are all connected. I have been lucky, I have been given things. I know that."

And off he goes, back to the Tudor house he has been restoring in Crewe, but which is quiet today because the builders are not allowed to touch it in his absence. Like the steelworks, the Dee, the H-block barracks, it has taken its place in those dreams of Dennis Lumborg that never had room for the theatre.

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OUR AMERICAN FRIEND

Britain remembers Roosevelt as a tower of strength in war

Today, a wreath will be laid by the American Ambassador, William Crowe, at Franklin Delano Roosevelt's statue in Grosvenor Square to mark the 50th anniversary of the President's death on April 12, 1945, and to honour his memory. When Roosevelt died, the people of Britain, to whom he had seemed such a great friend during the war, were seized by a rare sense of grief. The Anglo-American group, the Pilgrims, in collaboration with *The Times*, proposed that a memorial should be built to him and paid for by individual contributions of no more than five shillings.

It is a measure of the esteem in which FDR was held in this country and the sense of loss which his death inspired in ordinary people that the £40,000 required was raised in a single week. When the President's widow, Eleanor Roosevelt, unveiled the statue on the third anniversary of his death, George VI said of her late husband that the British people "thought of him not only as a great war leader, one of the foremost architects of our common victory, but also a great man of peace and a great citizen of the world". Today's ceremony will pay tribute to the special bond which Roosevelt cultivated between two nations and may even give a little sustenance to Anglo-American relations at a difficult moment.

Roosevelt, who was President from 1933 to 1945, plays a profound role in the collective memory of his own nation. "During his years," writes his biographer Arthur Schlesinger, "America emerged from 19th-century simplicity, encountered world war and depression and world war again and began to bear the grandeur and guilt of international power." Partly because of this symbolic significance, and partly because to many conservatives he also epitomises the coming of "big government" to America, Roosevelt has been the subject of strong attack by revisionist historians in recent years. The proposed memorial to him in

Washington has also been condemned as politically incorrect — on the ground that it will not emphasise the disability which he himself was so careful to mask in public.

For Britons, however, Roosevelt's significance is simpler. Roosevelt viewed the British Empire with profound distrust; and in the course of the war, there were inevitable disagreements between the American President and Churchill. But in the eye of history these disputes bulk small beside the grand alliance forged between Britain and America. For the past half century, the co-operation forged in war has woven itself into the folk memory of both nations. In narrow diplomatic terms, the so-called "special relationship" is under great strain. Yet there are cultural and moral affinities, rediscovered in shared adversity, which survive and prosper. For many Britons, these mean far more than their historical bonds with their continental European neighbours.

The emotional ties stretching across the Atlantic depend for their vigour upon personal contact of the kind which the Pilgrims Society has encouraged since its foundation in 1902. Kennedy's close friendship with Harold Macmillan and Lord Harlech, the then British Ambassador to Washington, echoed Churchill's with Roosevelt. The history of the 1960s might have been very different without the close understanding between Ronald Reagan and Lady Thatcher.

Such friendships are not enough to ensure diplomatic harmony. But they encourage habits of doing business together which by now run deep in both societies. These do much to preserve the spiritual Atlanticism which transcends the detail of day-to-day policy-making. It was this bond which Churchill spoke of on Roosevelt's death: he was, he said simply, "the greatest American friend we have ever known". Today's ceremony honours not only a great American, but the Anglo-American bonds he did so much to nurture.

CRIME TIME

In this war, ministers should be wary of proclaiming victory

There is undoubtedly some good news in the crime figures released by the Home Office yesterday. The number of burglaries and car crimes has dropped and the clear-up rates for these crimes has improved. Whether the Government is justified in claiming that this marks a significant victory in what politicians of all parties now call "the war against crime", is less certain. Not only has the number of violent crimes against the person — including rape — increased, but the downward trend in crime generally appears to be tapering off. In the final quarter of 1993, the decline was 9 per cent; a year later, it was only 1 per cent.

Even in areas where improvement has been marked, the long-term prognosis may not be that hopeful. By targeting a specific category of crime like burglary, police forces can make an immediate impact on its incidence. But programmes like Operation Bumblebee consume considerable time and resources in return for a fairly small improvement in deterrence and clear-up rates. Such a concentration of manpower was an appropriate response to widespread public frustration over property crime.

But there are diminishing returns to this sort of approach. An initial dramatic fall in burglary was to be expected following the first systematic crack down. Even if this amount of police effort were to be sustained indefinitely, progress would be unlikely to continue at the same rate. Identifiable repeated offenders can be apprehended or deterred, but the greatest number of property crimes are committed by casual (often teenage) opportunists who are more difficult to pursue and to detain.

Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, announced yesterday that similar tactics to those used in Operation Bumblebee would now be applied to target street robberies, which increased by 3000 to

22,000 in the Metropolitan district last year. But crimes against the person may not be easily controllable by the same techniques.

Burglary and car theft can be reduced by good security measures, such as anti-theft devices and car alarms. Such offences also lend themselves particularly well to thorough police investigation: stolen consumer durables, as soon as they are used or sold, provide a traceable route to a criminal. Personal violence is not so amenable to prevention or detection.

Part of the apparent increase in violent crime is due, paradoxically, to the increased attentiveness of the police. The numbers of recorded rapes have gone up since victims have been offered more sympathetic treatment. Rape itself is now being defined more broadly and the police are treating domestic violence seriously. One of the least happy aspects of the policeman's lot is that improved performance can create the misleading impression that the sum total of violence is increasing.

But the public perception of danger in the streets cannot be dismissed. It may be connected as much to a general rise in threatening, anti-social behaviour as to a prevalence of actual assaults. To many ordinary people, foul-mouthed yobs who verbally abuse and threaten passers-by are as much part of a violent society as muggers.

Tackling this atmosphere of thuggery and menace is a task for the whole community, not just the police. But even conscientious citizens are aware that delinquents now often carry knives. In addition, the forceful restraint of a juvenile can bring a prosecution under the Children Act. The most important role that government can play is to recognise how much respect for the law — and adult authority generally — has been undermined and to take every possible step to support those who reinforce it.

EXIT STAGE LEFT

Follett's friends bring more than money to the party

The departure of Ken Follett, the novelist, from his post as organiser of the 1,000 Club of Labour fundraisers robs the party of a useful conduit to the rich, cultured and well-connected. Little effort has been made by Tony Blair's office to express even the politest regret at his going. Indeed the resignation has been treated with an insouciance verging on high-handedness. Such ingratitude towards a man who has raised £1 million in the last four years for the cash-strapped cause is rash indeed.

The Left's answer to Lord Archer, Mr Follett brought into Labour's orbit household names such as Lord Aurenborough, Anthony Sher, Stephen Fry and the Olympic athletes Steve Cram and Tessa Sanderson. He can justly claim that this has done as much as the leadership's modernising policies to help relieve Labour of its cloth-cap image. Despite the sneers at champagne socialists and "Luvvies for Labour", such public figures help voters to understand what politicians stand for.

Harold Wilson's leadership was flavoured by his attachment to Lord Kagan and Lord Morecambe and Wise. In the Conservative camp, Tories were often embarrassed by Lord Archer's brash style, but understood Lord Archer's brash style, but understood about the Thatcherite era and its stress on

wealth-creation and self-reliance. The times have changed, but his popularity in constituencies endures. In the North-East today, few will recall the wording of the new Clause 4, but many more will be impressed that Cram, known for his personal modesty and concern for inner-city problems, has aligned himself with Mr Blair's Labour.

Mr Blair, who has a strong streak of both nonconformist asceticism and authoritarianism, disapproved of Mr Follett's tendency to alert the paparazzi to events the party leader thought best conducted discreetly. He also knows that many of his supporters from the arts and entertainment world, above all those who stuck with the party during the wilderness years, are sceptical of New Labour, concerned that behind its unobjectionable pledges lurks a vacuum of principle and a lack of passion. Yet the hunger of the left-wing arts elite for a seat at their future prime minister's dinner table, or a job in a quango, is a potential Blair asset.

They bring more to the table than money. In striving to prove that it holds no fears for tentative Middle England, Labour risks dispensing with those elements of passion and flair which are as important in attracting voters as sound economics and political commonsense. Mr Blair should nurture his mood music: no politician can be without it.

'Inhuman' delays on death row?

From Mr Nicholas Stewart, QC

Sir, My barrister colleague, Mr Anthony Verdun (letter, April 6), asked why the Prime Minister could not pass on to the Georgia authorities the Privy Council's view that a delay of more than five years in the carrying out of the death penalty was likely to constitute, in the words of the Jamaica Constitution, "inhuman or degrading punishment or other treatment". The equivalent phrase in the 8th Amendment to the United States Constitution is "cruel and unusual punishment".

Philip Sapsford, QC, and David Marshall, two members of the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales who were in Atlanta last week to support Nicholas Ingram's lawyers, are working on that very issue. In May 1994 the committee sent them to Texas, where there were at the time 380 men and four women in prison awaiting execution. They reported that in recent years the average time a condemned person had spent on death row before being executed in Texas was 8.2 years and the longest over 16 years.

Sapsford and Marshall are now back in Texas where on Monday a judge stayed the execution of Calvin Burdine for 120 days on Tuesday. This was the sixth time Burdine's execution had been set and then stayed. The first time was August 4, 1987, when Burdine had already been placed on "death watch" (special confinement in the last 24 hours before execution) because they had mistaked the fax containing the order for a stay.

Whether Burdine will ultimately avoid execution remains doubtful. But in the case of Clarence Lackey, who has been on death row in Texas for 18 years, there was a significant and encouraging development in the US Supreme Court on March 27, following the submission of a brief by this committee, when Justice Stevens expressed the view that the US lower courts should now consider whether execution after long delay could be a violation of the 8th Amendment.

This committee has no policy position on the death penalty itself, whatever our individual views. We acknowledge the democratic right of the people of Texas, Georgia or any other state to decide whether to impose the death penalty. But there is strong reason to believe that in the United States the death penalty is being inflicted in an inhuman way.

Nicholas Ingram is now dead and with the gruesome benefit of hindsight we can see that legal wrangling may have made his final days even more of a torment. But that is not to say that his case for humane treatment should not have been made.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS STEWART
(Chairman, Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales),
4 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2A 3JL, April 11.

The moral dilemma

From Mr Mark Thompson

Sir, I am not an advocate of the death penalty, but find some difficulty in viewing the execution of Nicholas Ingram in Georgia (report, April 10) as anything other than the right of a sovereign state to carry out its own laws. People who do not wish to abide by the laws of the country they reside in should reside elsewhere.

No doubt Clive Stafford Smith, Ingram's British lawyer, had sincere compassion for a client condemned to die, but to describe as a friend a man who murdered in the most callous fashion and had shown no remorse to his victims' family casts a poor light on those who should be challenging for the wrongly imprisoned, not for those who have removed the greatest human right of all.

Yours faithfully,
MARK THOMPSON,
5 Carden Mews, Ascot, Berkshire.

From Mr Jim Jefferies

Sir, As one of the small group of supplicants (it includes, outside the family, Archbishop Carey and myself, to my knowledge) who intercede in vain with the American authorities, today (Palm Sunday) I tried again. I went to church and pleaded with the Almighty for mercy on the unfortunate Ingram's eternal soul.

The Devil, however, also attended and it was he that whispered in my ear that Ingram died after 12 years of refined torture, including final cruciating indignities, not for murder but for failing to impress the chairman of Georgia's parole board (report, April 7) who came to eyeball him.

While naturally I brushed aside such perfidious calumny, just in case, I said another prayer, this time for the American system of justice.

Tired after all this praying (I am not normally so devout) I found myself pessimistic about any success at all. I can only hope that the Archbishop (who undoubtedly has friends in higher places than me) has another go, particularly in view of the remaining 3,000 existing in the living death that is called death row.

Yours truly,
JIM JEFFERIES,
7 Northwich Close,
Thornton, Liverpool L31 2JL,
April 8.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Supply of textbooks as overseas aid

From the Minister for Overseas Development

Sir, Let me assure Dr Thomas Sutcliffe (Medical Briefing, March 29) and Dr G. C. Cook, President of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (letter, April 6), that I am a firm supporter of helping students, especially poorer ones in the poorer countries, gain access to the books they need for their studies.

The British aid programme funds the supply of books and other teaching material in a number of ways to help achieve this. The Educational Low-Priced Book Scheme (ELBS) is one of these means. It does not distribute free books but provides a subsidy to British publishers to enable them to sell certain books more cheaply.

This has been done with some success. However, a recent review of the scheme shows that 22 of the 54 countries in which the books are being sold have a higher per capita income than the £1,000 previously agreed as the target limit for the countries to be eligible. These include, for example, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand and Turkey.

These better-off countries account for about one third of ELBS books sold. Under the scheme books are sold through existing commercial channels: there is thus no way of ensuring that the subsidy benefits the poorer students rather than the better-off, whatever the country.

One of my concerns is that the poorer students in poorer countries often cannot afford to buy books, and I wish, therefore, to find effective ways of giving them access to the educational materials they need.

The best means of targeting may be to increase the supply of British textbooks to libraries and educational institutions in the poorer countries — where possible as part of assistance to strengthen such institutions more widely. ODA is already providing such assistance bilaterally in countries as diverse as South Africa and Jamaica, for example, and through books projects implemented by Book Aid International.

I have asked the publishers and other interested parties to discuss these issues with my education advisers over the next few months, and jointly to develop new strategies for

achieving targeted access to essential learning materials. To allow time for this discussion I decided not to terminate the ELBS immediately but to allow a phasing-out period over the next two years.

Last year ODA spent over £117 million on aid to education. We are determined to make sure that this, and indeed all our aid, is closely targeted.

Yours faithfully,
LYNDA CHALKER,
Overseas Development
Administration,
94 Victoria Street, SW1,
April 7.

From Mr Gerald Cole

Sir, As an author of textbook titles sent overseas under the ELBS, I view the rumours concerning the possible withdrawal of the scheme by the ODA with some dismay.

Given that the selection of textbooks by the British Council, which administers the scheme, is understood to be quite rigorous, I must admit that I felt more than happy to know that some of my books were going to be of direct use to impoverished students in the Third World. If the Government decides to withdraw the scheme, it will make it increasingly difficult for Commonwealth countries to look towards Britain for support in the vital process of educating their young people. I am also gravely concerned that the loss of ELBS will signify yet another step in Britain's declining contribution to the worldwide use of English as the major language of educational advance.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD COLE,
8 The Courtyard, South Street,
Falmer, Brighton, East Sussex,
April 6.

From Mr Robert Harkness

Sir, Government funding for subsidising provision of text books to the Third World at a cost of £1.5 million a year compares interestingly with £253 million spent by the Government on public relations every year. I think your readers should be made aware of this comparison.

Yours,
ROBERT HARKNESS,
Rough Hey, Templewood Lane,
Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire.

Right to silence

from the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police

Sir, Adrian Zuckerman (letter, April 4) is quite wrong to suggest that there are no provisions for fairness when police question suspects under the new laws on the "right to silence" which come into force today. A court will only be allowed to take account of a suspect's silence in certain situations, where safeguards apply. The police must "put their cards on the table" before a suspect's refusal to account for incriminating circumstances can count for anything. A defendant who introduces facts at his trial which he should have raised earlier, can now expect the court to take account of his reticence, unless it is considered "reasonable". That, in summary, is the change in the "right to silence".

For Roger Leng (letter, March 31) to suggest that the new law gives police a "power to threaten" a suspect that his silence may be taken as evidence against him is wildly inaccurate. A suspect in a police station (who has access to free legal advice) is entitled to be told of his legal position prior to being questioned. That is his right, and it is the duty of the police to observe it. An interviewee has the further protection of tape recordings being made, which ensure that any interview can be scrutinised afterwards for "unfairness".

I only wish that victims and witnesses of crime were as well protected at court as suspects at a police station. Unfair and oppressive treatment by some defence lawyers during cross-examination is widespread, permitted by the rules of trial and regarded as a legitimate tactic by its practitioners. It is incongruous for them to criticise the new law on the grounds of human rights or civil liberties.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES POLLARD,
Thames Valley Police,
Kidlington, Oxfordshire,
April 10.

From Mr Francis J. Bergin

Sir, Mr Zuckerman quotes William Blackstone's statement, "It is better that ten guilty persons escape than one innocent suffer". Better for whom?

Yours sincerely,
F. J. BERGIN,
Elstree House, Elstree Way,
Borehamwood, Hertfordshire.

Arts Council grant

From Mr Peter Gummer

Sir, I would like to correct two possible misunderstandings arising from letters published under the heading "Conflict of interest over lottery grants" (April 8).

Denis Vaughan describes the Royal Opera House application as ineligible because the Arts Council of England is joint owner of the site. The Department of National Heritage made the Arts Council a joint trustee of the land adjacent to the Opera House to protect the public interest during the development period. When the work is complete it is intended that the Arts Council's period of trusteeship will cease.

In commenting on the Arts Council's recently announced grant to the South Bank, Hal Higgins is right to point out that feasibility studies should not cost £900,000, unless they involve detailed design work. In fact, the grant will cover the whole of the next six months' development work on the project, including detailed design.

Yours sincerely,
PETER GUMMER
(Chairman, National Lottery Board),
Arts Council of England,
14 Great Peter Street, SW1.

That's no ladybird

From Dr J. Alterman

Sir, You report (later editions, April 9) that because of the mild weather, female ladybirds are spreading a sexually transmitted disease by promiscuously mating with a different partner almost every day. Should not a more appropriate name be found for this attractive little beetle?

Yours faithfully,
JULIA ALTERMAN,
3 Birch Court,
8 Woodside Grange Road, N12.

School funding

From the Headmaster of Wisbech Grammar School

Sir, The Headmaster of Abingdon School's attitude towards a return to some sort of state funding for ex-direct grant grammar schools (Education, April 3) is clearly influenced by the circumstances of his own school.

In middle-class Oxfordshire, with average earnings well above the norm, the children of highly motivated, ambitious London commuters combine with those of university professors to ensure a strong market in which parents can afford full fees. Assisted places allow children from all backgrounds to attend established and popular independent schools in relatively poor areas. Unless the scheme is maintained, or replaced with something which affords similar opportunities, the result would be an end to this commuter line to bright job prospects elsewhere, which no economically disadvantaged area can ever hope to provide.

Yours faithfully,
R. S. REPPER, Headmaster,
Wisbech Grammar School,
North Brink,
Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.

Forecasting change

From Mr Roger Baker

Sir, "Never cast a clout 'til May is out" refers to the emergence of mayflower, not to observance of the calendar. Mr John Foundley (letter, April 10) can continue to rely on Mother Nature as his guide to seasonal dressing, global warming or no.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER BAKER,
Old Hall,
High Hurstwood, East Sussex,
April 10.

Smokers' rights on the Brighton line

From Mr Mark Sharon

Sir, I heartily applaud British Rail's efforts to rid the trains of smoking (reports, April 7). The selfishness of the "smokers' rights" minority is evidenced by their commandeering of the only buffet cars on two of the most popular London to Brighton trains.

Lord Harris of High Cross cannot have understood that smoking is an anti-social activity: its so-called popularity was as much to do with social pressure as with actual enjoyment. And his statement that smokers and non-smokers travelled amicably in the past is not borne out by my own observation: that if one wanted a seat in a crowded train there was always one in the smoking section.

Yours faithfully,
MARK SHARON,
47 Ashleigh Road, Mortlake, SW14,
April 7.

From Ms Beverly Holland

Sir, Hastings commuters are light years ahead of those on the Brighton line. They have managed to confine smoking to the last half carriage on the 7.25am train from Hastings to Cannon Street and a six-seater compartment by the brake-van on the 5.40 and 6.25pm trains from Cannon Street. They also have stickers resembling the usual "No smoking" stickers on the train which read "Smoking".

Every evening they all meet up in the same spot. It is tremendous fun. Smokers are more sociable than non-smokers when commuting — they have all the parties.

Yours sincerely,
B. HOLLAND,
Little Oaks, Conghurst Lane,
Four Thorns, Hawkhurst, Kent.

From the Chairman of ASH

Sir, It is amazing that the chairman of Forest, the tobacco industry's front organisation, should declare himself the "ideal referee" in a dispute about smoking. Network SouthCentral should be applauded for introducing a policy which recognises that non-smoking is now the norm in society.

Yours faithfully,
DESMOND JULIAN,
Chairman, ASH
(Action on Smoking and Health),
109 Gloucester Place, W1.

From Mr Paul Hooper

Sir, Hereabouts smoking on trains is rarely a problem. However, in one recent incident a passenger lit up on an InterCity service. When asked politely to refrain from smoking he stated not only was he a member of Forest, and had a right to smoke wherever he wanted to, but that I and my fellow passengers should be grateful to him for paying over £2.50 a packet for his cigarettes and allowing us to breathe the smoke for free.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL HOOPER
(Project Manager),
Smoke Free Birmingham Project,
21-22 Calthorpe Road,
Edgbaston, Birmingham B15.

Limestone pillage

From the Director General of the Royal Horticultural Society

Sir, This society wholeheartedly supports the call of the Wildlife Trusts for more protection for limestone pavements ("Gardeners blamed for limestone desecration", April 10).

It is now the society's policy not to allow exhibitors to use surface-stripped limestone pavement rock at the Chelsea Flower Show or any other RHS events. We do not use limestone pavements in our own gardens and our advice to gardeners is at large is to use other types of stone for rock gardens and landscaping or, better still, to use stones from redundant features.

Yours faithfully,
CORDON H. RAE,
Director General,
Royal Horticultural Society,
80 Vincent Square, SW1,
April 10.

Easter offerings

From the Reverend T. R. Burt

Sir, I have not received an Easter offering during my eleven years as an incumbent, but there have been many other occasions on which parishioners have been kind enough to show their appreciation.

I am sure that Mr Wylie (letter, April 10) will be able to use his ingenuity to acknowledge his vicar's ministry in ways that do not cause the difficulties with the inland Revenue (both for the priest and his parish) that the Easter offering can cause.

Yours faithfully,
TIM BARKER,
11 Abbey Street, Chester.

From Mrs Janet Kingston

Sir, In order to overcome Mr Wylie's difficulty, might I suggest that in future such gifts should be marked "The Vicar's Wife".

Yours faithfully,
JANET KINGSTON,
The Vicarage, Church Lane,
Hambleton, Hampshire.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

OBITUARIES

Chen Yun, former vice-chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, Politburo member and Vice Premier, died on April 10 aged 90. He was born in Shanghai, probably in 1904.

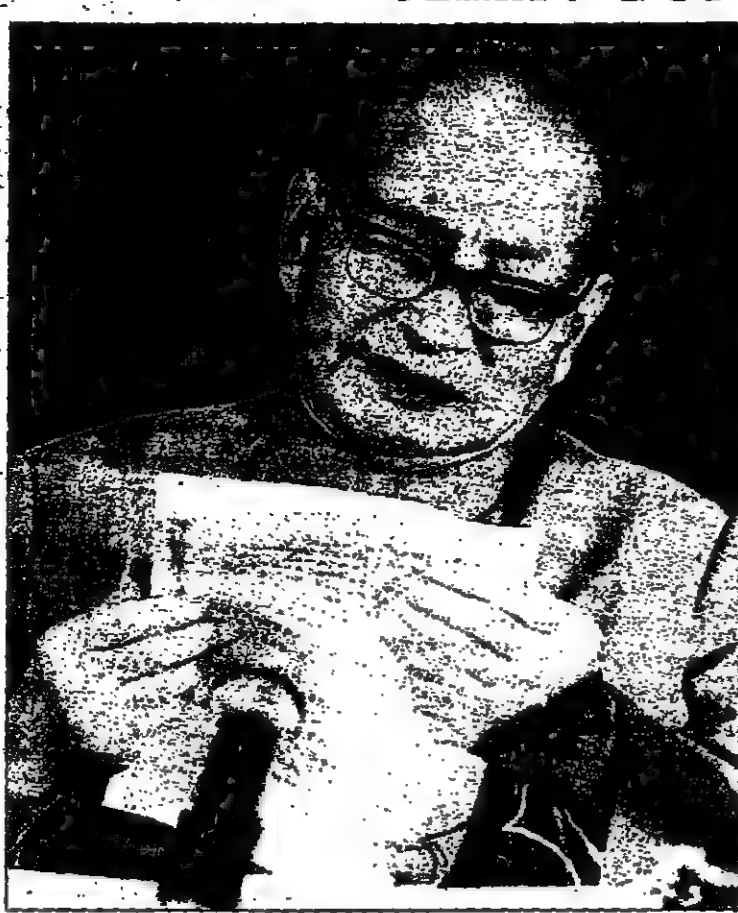
CHEN YUN was the continuity man in the erratic saga of Chinese communist economic policy. He was the acknowledged party expert on economic matters before it came to power in 1949, and Chou En-lai, the Prime Minister, put him in charge of the first Five-Year Plan in the 1950s. Guiding China's economic policy in the 1950s, he followed the Stalinist model of strict central control and eventually became one of the "eight immortals" — the elite group of revolutionary veterans who remained the supreme arbiters of Chinese policy in the 1960s.

In 1958 he led the criticism of Mao Tse-tung's ill-conceived Great Leap Forward and people's communes, coming back to the forefront in the early 1960s when more moderate and conventional policies prevailed under the direction of Liu Shaoqi. Again, Chen Yun was pushed out in the Cultural Revolution, reappearing in 1978 in support of Deng Xiaoping's reforms and the open door to the West after Mao's death.

To begin with, Chen strongly supported Deng but gradually he found fault with the extreme reliance on market forces, with its concomitant encouragement of corruption and social and political disillusionment. He was regarded by some as Deng's foremost political rival but remained loyal to the country's paramount leader. However, his criticisms from 1985 onwards were an important factor in leading Deng to rein in his more eager reformers, leaving the economic reforms half-implemented.

Chen Yun was born Liao Chengyun, taking a new name when he joined the Communist Party. He became a print worker after only six years of schooling in Jiangsu province and was self-educated in political philosophy. He led his fellow workers on strike, going through phases of nihilism and of following the ideas of Sun Yat-sen in Shanghai, before joining the Communist Party to work with Liu Shaoqi organising workers to strike.

He was elected to the party Central Committee in 1934 and went on the Long March (an account of which he wrote under a pseudonym). He then went to the Soviet Union for two years before rejoining Mao and Liu



Chen Yun reading his speech at the Chinese Communist Party conference in 1985 in which he expressed serious doubts about Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms

at their guerrilla headquarters in northwest China for the final phase of the civil war. He became head of the party organisation department and gained a reputation for his lectures on party policy at several communist universities.

The economic policies he introduced during the fight against Japan in the Second World War were much admired and when the Communists gained power in 1949 he was appointed Vice-Premier and chairman of the Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs and Minister of Heavy Industry.

He was thus the architect of the Government's first economic plan, which set production quotas for each farm and factory and was praised for the progress made in reducing the hunger and deprivation that characterised pre-revolutionary China.

By 1955 he ranked fifth in the party hierarchy, and acted as Prime Minister

CHEN YUN

in 1976 Cultural Revolution, when Mao led the country in an explosion of leftist agitation.

While opposing the Cultural Revolution, he seemed to escape its worst consequences. He remained on the Communist Party Central Committee and, unlike Deng, was not persecuted. Chen re-emerged in 1978, shortly after Deng became the party's senior figure, replacing the Politburo and gaining stature as an elder statesman ready to help Deng pick up the pieces after the death of Mao.

His importance was heightened by the fact that he became the only genuine proletarian in the senior leadership. Liu Shaoqi, the other worker-communist of that generation, having fallen victim of Mao.

But Chen Yun made it clear that he did not seek reform for his own sake, and that he held still to the basic Marxist tenets. He famously compared economic revitalisation to a bird which needed to fly. If one held it tightly in one's hands it would die, but it should only be allowed to fly within the cage of state planning, otherwise it would fly away and elude one's grasp.

By then Chen was ranked second after Deng Xiaoping in the hierarchy of honour, and he received the accolade of having his *Selected Works* published in 1984.

Yet he remained a lonely figure, not identified with party factions, nor taking sides in party struggles, only giving his views on policies. He was concerned particularly with economic affairs but also took an interest in the discipline, organisation and morale of the Communist Party itself, having worked with Liu Shaoqi on this for many years. Deng made him head of the party's Financial and Economic Commission, and also of its Disciplinary Commission.

In 1985 discord between Chen and Deng came to the surface at a national party conference. Chen said he supported Deng's reforms, aimed at inducing people to work hard to get rich, but launched a scathing attack on excesses spawned by the reforms, including corruption and foreign influence.

Chen was appointed head of the advisory commission in 1987 in a move by Deng which was regarded as a measure to ease many veteran revolutionaries out of the limelight.

In many respects Chen was Deng's alter-ego, urging caution where Deng raced headlong to abolish Stalinist-style central planning and warning, correctly, of inflation when Deng rushed to free prices, but who

in Chou's absences abroad. His policy of decentralisation, private plots, market forces, and the responsibility of producers for their own management, elaborated at the Eighth Party Congress of 1956, sounded very close to Deng Xiaoping's reforms of 1978.

He fell into some disavowal in 1957, however, when he criticised Mao's attempt to mobilise the nation in the chaotic "Great Leap Forward," a rapid push toward decentralised, labour-intensive industrialisation. "One cannot reach heaven in a single leap," he said. He returned to favour when the Great Leap Forward collapsed into economic disaster and nationwide famine.

During the 1960s Chen argued that consumer goods and small local products should not be dictated by central planners and, as a result, was labelled a "capitalist roadster." He was stripped of his position on the Politburo after the start of the 1966-

hibited and resourceful approach to her art was preferable to the dull uniformity that is often the concomitant of technical perfection. Her playing had a masculine strength, her fingers well able to cope with the extreme demands of Beethoven's "Hammerklavier" Sonata and the piano works of her compatriot Bartok, of whom she was a superb interpreter.

Fischer studied at the Liszt Academy in Budapest with, among others, the composer-pianist Dohnanyi. She made her debut at the age of eight playing Beethoven's First Concerto and four years later, in 1926, made her first trip abroad to play concertos by

Mozart and Schumann in Zurich. In 1930 she was awarded the Liszt Prize.

She spent the war years in Sweden before returning to Budapest in 1946 and starting an international career. During the early postwar years Klemperer was also resident in Budapest. He and Fischer, like-minded artists, gave concerts together. It was, therefore, hardly surprising that she appeared often with him in London during the heyday of his reputation in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Walter Legge was also an admirer of her art, and she made several records of Mozart and Beethoven at this time for EMI; they are precious mementoes of her playing at the peak of her powers.

When she came back in the 1980s to give a series of recitals at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, her playing may not have been as strong but seemed to have further matured. In Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and Schumann, her searching, utterly honest interpretations excited much praise.

Unfortunately, her obviously frail constitution sometimes forced her to cancel — which made the occasions when she did appear all the more sought after. She continued to give recitals well into her old age, including a memorable one in London in June 1992.

She was only two years short of her eightieth birthday. Her style was still based on the precision and strength of her articulation, her control of structure and her imaginative colouring of tone.

She was married to Aladar Todt, sometime Director of the Budapest Opera.

PROFESSOR BERNARD ISAACS

Bernard Isaacs, CBE, Professor of Geriatric Medicine at Birmingham University, 1974-89, died in Jerusalem on March 23 aged 70. He was born in Glasgow on July 20, 1924.



THROUGHOUT his life Bernard Isaacs campaigned relentlessly for a better understanding of ageing, its problems and its opportunities. He was one of a small band of academic geriatricians who wrote the language of the medicine of old age, and who elevated the crippling, but neglected, illnesses from obscurity to recognition, description and thence to scientific evaluation and treatment.

The son of a shopkeeper and schoolteacher, he and his brother Allick (who later discovered interferon) decided to train in medicine. Bernard qualified in 1947. As a senior registrar in medicine at Glasgow University in the late 1950s, he was inspired by the example of Ferguson Anderson who became the first ever Professor of Geriatric Medicine.

In 1957 he obtained his MD thesis with high commendation and set the seal on an academic career which flourished when he was a consultant geriatrician in Glasgow.

His investigative work on the diseases of old age culminated in many publications, most notably his book *The Survival of the Unfit* in 1972, in which he described the terrible medical problems afflicting the elderly people of the East End of Glasgow.

Thus were born the "Giants of Geriatric Medicine," a term Isaacs coined to highlight the major illnesses of old age (intellectual impairment (dementia), immobility, incontinence and instability (a tendency to fall)).

Bernard Isaacs's skill lay in turning catastrophe into optimistic endeavour. This led him to develop the scientific evaluation of falls, for which he had a worldwide reputation. Most significant was his pioneering thrust to promote the development of the now-flourishing specialty of Old Age Psychiatry, which has brought enthusiastic clinicians to address the common and distressing afflictions of depression and dementia in the elderly.

In 1974 he was appointed to the Charles Hayward Chair of Geriatric Medicine at Birmingham University, where for the first time he established formal teaching of Geriatric Medicine to doctors in training. The course has had enduring appeal and contin-

ues virtually unchanged today. He was a born teacher. His witty aphorisms, humour and way with words brought life to subject matter which, in less skilled hands, would have seemed dull. Young doctors, often obsessed with a preoccupation to make a slick medical diagnosis (and to consider the completion of their endeavour), were inspired by his teaching to consider with equal enthusiasm the consequences to their patients of the major afflictions of old age and their responsibility to alleviate such suffering.

Late in his career Isaacs established the Centre for Applied Gerontology at Birmingham University, in which the needs of elderly people were incorporated into the research and development of housing, equipment and services.

His last book, *The Challenges of Geriatric Medicine*, was completed shortly after his retirement. In it, with great humour and compassion, Isaacs expressed a lifetime's wisdom, understanding and reaching about old people and their afflictions. To his colleagues, the book is a fine memorial. As a personal level, friends will recall his intellect, boundless energy, boyish charm, humour and modesty.

Bernard Isaacs had always wished to settle in his spiritual homeland and after retirement he and his wife Dorothy emigrated to Israel, there to continue to work in assisting the establishment of Geriatric Medicine in Israel.

He is survived by his wife, whom he married in 1957, and by four sons.

ON THIS DAY

April 12 1921

The wife of William II, the former German Emperor (the Kaiser), joined him in exile in Holland after Germany's defeat in the First World War. They had six sons and one daughter, the Duchess of Brunswick. William II remarried not long after his wife's death; he died in 1941.

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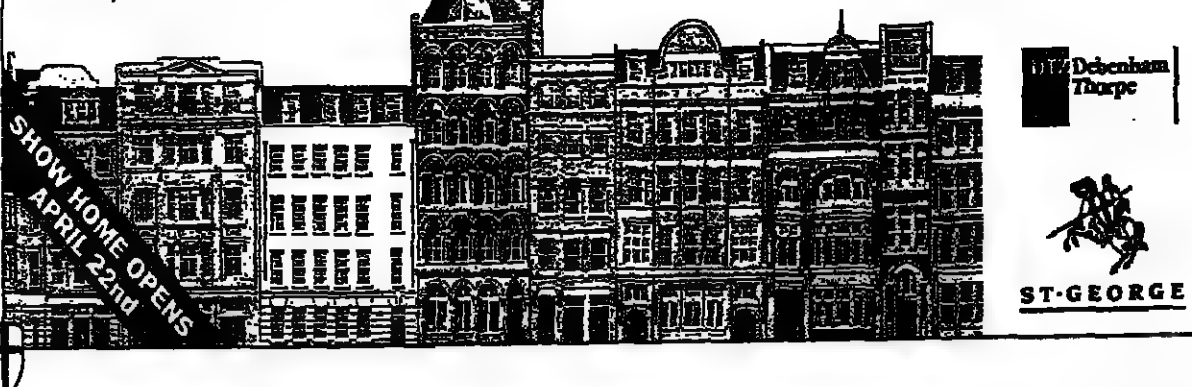
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Santer urges Britain to increase Ulster cash

By Nicholas Watt
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

JACQUES SANTER, the President of the European Commission, yesterday called on the British Government to bolster the Northern Ireland peace process by providing extra funding for the province.

He said the Government should follow the example of the European Union which pledged an extra £240 million after the IRA and loyalist

ceasefires last year. M. Santer was the keynote speaker at a conference in Belfast which discussed how the EU funding should be spent.

Paying his first visit to Northern Ireland since taking office, he told the conference: "In plain language the European Union funds are 100 per cent additional; the UK and Irish matching funds should be 100 per cent additional as well. The European Union has put fresh money into the peace process; we expect Ken

Clarke and Ruairi Quinn [Ireland's finance minister] to do the same."

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, reassured the conference that the extra EU funding would be treated by the Government as additional. He said: "We know that they [the funds] are intended to be expended for the benefit of the people of Northern Ireland and not for the benefit of our Treasury."

It is understood that Britain will top up the EU funding with about

£60 million, but the Government will decide which projects to support.

The EU funding, which is additional to the £950 million that the EU will pump in over the next five years, will be targeted at areas most affected by the troubles, both in the province and in border regions of the Republic. The Commission has proposed that 80 per cent of the funding should be spent on projects in Northern Ireland and not less than 20 per cent in the border counties.

Yesterday's conference, arranged by Northern Ireland's three MEPs, heard submissions from across the province's political spectrum. Jackie Redpath, of the Greater Shankill Project in Belfast, said: "The funds need to come to areas like Shankill which have suffered most greatly from violence and deprivation over the last 25 years." He added that there was a clear correlation between areas affected by violence and unemployment.

British Coal pensions to be sold as single unit

By Robert Miller

THE blockbuster sale of CINMan, British Coal's £16 billion pension fund, began in earnest yesterday with details of how potential purchasers can apply to buy the in-house pension fund manager in a single unit.

The British Coal announcement puts an end to speculation that the three different areas of CINMan's business might be sold separately.

CINMan manages most of the investments for two pension funds, the British Coal staff scheme and the Mineworkers Pension Scheme, on which some 600,000 people have a claim. The Coal Schemes, which are in the

process of being closed to contributing members, provide that pensions and deferred pensions should rise each year in line with inflation. At the end of 1994 the assets of the Coal Schemes were valued at £15.9 billion.

A further £800 million is managed by CINVen, British Coal's venture capital subsidiary, with some £300 million of the total being invested on behalf of the Railways Pension Scheme, Barclays Bank Pension Fund and Royal Life.

Until yesterday there had been intense speculation that CINVen, Britain's second-largest venture capital group, might suffer from the defection of its entire management team if they could not remain independent. Officials are understood to have told British Coal and Samuel Montagu, the merchant bank appointed to handle the sale, that they wanted to retain their independence under a new owner.

However, British Coal has made clear that CINMan is to be sold as one unit. Samuel Montagu has received expressions of interest from more than 50 institutions. British Coal said it wanted to ensure the transition to private ownership was achieved "with minimum disruption" and that "CINMan's autonomy and independence in relation to the management of customers' assets is safeguarded".

Barry Southcott, chief executive of CINMan, said: "We view our move into the private sector very positively. Our three areas of investment activity all have highly creditable track records and contain considerable breadth and depth of investment management experience."

Neil Clarke, chairman of British Coal, said buyers would be carefully vetted to ensure they were committed to the future of the business and interests of members.

Pennington, page 25



Ramon Pajares, managing director, revealed a sharp improvement in group profits

Savoy books a summer sale

By Martin Waller

THE sale of the Lancaster hotel in Paris, which would provide funds to refurbish the rest of the portfolio owned by the Savoy Hotel group, could be completed by this summer.

Ramon Pajares, managing director, said his group was talking to three firm buyers who were interested in paying the sort of sum Savoy Group has in mind. The Lancaster is expected to raise more than £10 million.

Mr Pajares said so far 42 jobs had been lost as part of the restructuring at the group, which had involved closure of

the centralised wine, meat and fruit and vegetable buying operations and of the in-house printing business.

The group was announcing a sharp improvement in profits on the back of a 10 per cent rise in sales in 1994 to £92 million, the result of higher occupancy rates. Pre-tax profits of £4.23 million contrasted with £2.55 million earned in 1993, although last year's figures contained a £1.2 million boost from renegotiated rateable values of the London hotels.

The dividend on the 'A' shares is restored to 7p. In 1993

it was halved to 3.5p. Earnings are up from 1.8p to 10.7p.

Mr Pajares said although business so far this year had been relatively flat, the group expected a further rise in occupancy rates in the summer.

Sir Ewen Fergusson, chairman, said refurbishment of properties over the next two to three years will require "substantial capital investment". As well as proceeds from the Lancaster, the group will have £2.1 million from the sale of the Forest Mere health hydro in Hampshire, sold to its management subject to contract.

Germans are paying bills later

GERMANY, Europe's biggest market, has become a late-payment blackspot for British exporters, according to a survey by NCM Credit Insurance, the UK market leader in export credit insurance. (Colin Narborough writes).

NCM's findings show that payment delays in Germany rose by 7 per cent in the year to March 31, contrary to the trend in the rest of Europe. "Markets optimistic about the German economic recovery is somewhat premature," Conni Randall, NCM's business strategy director, said. Consumption was lagging much further behind the rest of the economy than in previous upturns and the level of overdue payments indicated that stocks held by manufacturers were still high. Business failures had risen by nearly a quarter in the past 12 months.

However, Germany's leading economic institutes yesterday forecast that its economy would grow by 3 per cent this year and next, in spite of the strong market-restraining exports.

NCM said that recovery was continuing to strengthen in the rest of Europe, with the value of delayed payments in the European Union falling by 21 per cent in the survey period, while the incidence of United Kingdom companies suffering losses related to late payment by EU buyers remained unchanged at one in four.

Hotel group considers payout rise

FRIENDLY HOTELS, the regional hotels operator, said it will consider increasing annual dividends if an improvement in trading conditions is sustained.

The company is recommending a final dividend of 2.3p a share, making a total of 5.7p for 1994, maintaining the dividend on the capital increased by a rights issue in 1993. The shares were unchanged at 154p. Pre-tax profits rose to £3.65 million from £2.6 million on turnover rising to £38.8 million from £32.3 million. Earnings improved to 10.5p a share from 9.6p. Henry Edwards, chairman, said the company would redouble efforts to seek suitable acquisitions.

Kemper agrees to be bought by Swiss

KEMPER, the American financial services group, said yesterday that it had agreed to be acquired for \$2 billion by a Swiss investment group, which includes Zurich Insurance. The deal, ending a year in which Kemper rejected higher bids from General Electric and Conoco, was generally welcomed. Zurich Insurance, a leading Swiss property and casualty insurer, has recently been expanding its operations in the United States. The other investment group member is Insurance Partners, an investment consortium that will control 49 per cent of the insurance arm.

Kemper said its common stockholders would receive \$47.50 per share in cash and 11.25 per cent cumulative exchangeable preferred stock with a liquidation preference equal to \$2 per Kemper share, subject to upward adjustment after three years, depending on certain real estate values. David Mathis, Kemper's chairman, said his board was unanimous in considering that the Swiss group represented a better prospect for shareholders. "The Zurich Insurance Group is a well-established, well-respected and highly rated global company with significant financial resources, which can help us continue to grow." Prior to sharing, Kemper will complete the spin-off to shareholders of its troubled securities brokerage operations. Analysts, many of whom had expected the firm to be sold piecemeal, welcomed the deal.

North West Water sale

NORTH WEST WATER yesterday announced the sale of its engineering division, which has 500 permanent employees, to the Bechtel Corporation, of San Francisco, for £15 million. The sale comes five months after North West and Bechtel, one of the world's largest construction firms, formed a partnership to pursue international water projects. Bechtel will engineer and construct the project and North West will operate them. The partnership is looking for investors to create and operate water and sewage treatment facilities in Venezuela and Indonesia.

CE Heath nets £28m

CE HEATH, the UK insurance broking group, is raising £28 million from the sale of the bulk of its holding in CNA Insurance International Holding (CNAI), the Australian-based insurer. Heath is selling 19.9 per cent of CNAI at 100p a share. Heath expects to sell the remaining 2.1 per cent of CNAI to have approval. Meanwhile, CNAI has agreed to buy back 10 per cent of its shares from CNAI Holdings, a subsidiary of Heath. The acquisition will make Heath the third largest listed insurance company in Australia with a market capitalisation of about A\$400 million (£196 million).

Boom year for Dewhurst

THE continued success of Marks & Spencer boosted profits at Dewhurst Group, one of its leading suppliers of clothing and toiletries, by 77 per cent last year. Pre-tax profits jumped to £12 million (£9.6 million) in the year to January 13 on sales of £247.3 million (£214.1 million). Profits from the clothing division rose 86 per cent to £14.8 million. Total footwear and menswear performed strongly. The restructuring of the toiletries division produced a 9 per cent rise in profits to £1.9 million. A final dividend of 2p (1.05p) brings the total payout to 2.65p (1.45p), an increase of 83 per cent, to be paid on July 1.

Bodycote lifts payout

BODYCOTE INTERNATIONAL, the metal technology and general industrial company, proposes capital investment of about £13 million this year as it seeks to take advantage of a continued improvement in trading conditions. The company said 1994 pre-tax profits rose to £15.8 million from £11.6 million, with a 28.4 per cent increase in the contribution from metal technology, reflecting strong demand for support services from the automotive, power generation and aerospace sectors. Earnings rose 8.6p a share, improving from 14.1p. The total dividend is 5.75p a share (5.25p), with a 3.6p final, due July 1.

Alliance to raise £7.2m

ALLIANCE RESOURCES, the oil and gas company, is raising £7.2 million through a placing and open offer. The company also announced the acquisition of oil and gas properties from North American Gas Investment Trust for about \$3.1 million. The properties being acquired are located in Texas, Oklahoma and Colorado. Shareholders are being offered eight new shares for every nine held at 6p each. Proceeds will be used to finance the further development of interests in Louisiana and implement the company's drilling programme, as well as to finance the trust acquisition.

Optimism at Cobham

COBHAM, the aerospace engineering and specialist air services company, expects a modest upturn in demand for civil aircraft. Although production of new military aircraft is unlikely to rise, demand for updated specialised equipment and systems will be significant, the company said. Profits in 1994 rose to £22.8 million before tax from £21 million, with earnings advancing to 19.2p a share from 18.2p. There is a final dividend of 5.3p a share, to be paid July 7, making a total of 8.32p (7.50p). Operating profits rose to £23 million, with a £600,000 contribution from acquisitions, from £18.4 million.

Dalgety buys pig firm

DALGETY, whose chief executive is Richard Clothier, left, has acquired the National Pig Development Company (NPDC), privately owned pig-breeding stock company based in Yorkshire, for £17 million, to be paid partly in cash and partly by the issue of £7.2 million of unsecured loan stock. Dalgety will also refinance borrowings of £3.2 million. NPDC, which employs 220 people, will be merged with Dalgety's Pig Improvement Company (PIC). Mr Clothier said that the acquisition would "accelerate PIC's European development, strengthen our position in North America and enhance PIC's worldwide leadership."

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MANCHESTER UNITY LIFE INSURANCE

COLLECTING SOCIETY THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COMPANY WILL BE HELD IN THE GOLD ROOM, 100, GARDENS, EASTBOURNE, Monday, 8 May 1995 at 10.15 AM

AGENDA: 1. To receive and approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting 1994. 2. To receive and approve the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 1994. 3. To receive and approve the report of the Directors for the year ended 31 March 1994. 4. To receive and approve the report of the Auditors for the year ended 31 March 1994. 5. To receive and approve the report of the Valuer for the year ended 31 March 1994. 6. To receive and approve the report of the Actuary for the year ended 31 March 1994. 7. To receive and approve the report of the Investment Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 8. To receive and approve the report of the Risk Management Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 9. To receive and approve the report of the Compliance Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 10. To receive and approve the report of the Nominations Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 11. To receive and approve the report of the Remuneration Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 12. To receive and approve the report of the Sustainability Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 13. To receive and approve the report of the Ethics Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 14. To receive and approve the report of the Diversity Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 15. To receive and approve the report of the Health and Safety Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 16. To receive and approve the report of the Environmental Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 17. To receive and approve the report of the Social Responsibility Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 18. To receive and approve the report of the Governance Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 19. To receive and approve the report of the Communications Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 20. To receive and approve the report of the Legal Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 21. To receive and approve the report of the Finance Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 22. To receive and approve the report of the HR Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 23. To receive and approve the report of the IT Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 24. To receive and approve the report of the Marketing Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 25. To receive and approve the report of the Operations Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 26. To receive and approve the report of the Procurement Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 27. To receive and approve the report of the Sales Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 28. To receive and approve the report of the Customer Service Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 29. To receive and approve the report of the Quality Management Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 30. To receive and approve the report of the Innovation Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 31. To receive and approve the report of the Research and Development Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 32. To receive and approve the report of the Strategic Planning Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 33. To receive and approve the report of the Business Development Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 34. To receive and approve the report of the Mergers and Acquisitions Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 35. To receive and approve the report of the Partnerships Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 36. To receive and approve the report of the Sponsorship Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 37. To receive and approve the report of the Philanthropy Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 38. To receive and approve the report of the Community Relations Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 39. To receive and approve the report of the Public Affairs Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 40. To receive and approve the report of the Government Relations Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 41. To receive and approve the report of the Media Relations Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 42. To receive and approve the report of the Press Relations Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 43. To receive and approve the report of the Crisis Management Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 44. To receive and approve the report of the Business Continuity Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 45. To receive and approve the report of the Disaster Recovery Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 46. To receive and approve the report of the Information Security Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 47. To receive and approve the report of the Data Protection Committee for the year ended 31 March 1994. 48. 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LEGAL NOTICES

Abeyaratne & Associates Limited (IN ADMINISTRATION) Notice is hereby given that a meeting of creditors in the above matter is to be held as follows: Venue: The Grand Hall, Town Hall, Manchester. Date: 8 May 1995. Time: 11.00am to consider the Administration proposals under £233.11 of the Insolvency Act 1986 and to consider a creditors' voluntary liquidation. D. J. M. MONTAGU, Administrator. HODGSON, KINGSLEY, & COMPANY, Solicitors. 40, THE SQUARE, MANCHESTER, M1 2PS.

Below: The Insolvency Act 1986. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 56 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Old Midland Buildings, 100, Victoria Street, Manchester, M1 2PS, on 19 April 1995 at 11.00 AM for the purpose mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act. A list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected free of charge at 100, Victoria Street, Manchester, M1 2PS.

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□ Barlow Clowes and accountancy regulation □ Pension fund bidding could be intense □ Clarke's gloomy message to EBRD

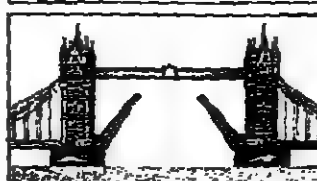
Auditing the auditors

ANYONE concerned with future regulation of accountancy should plough through the reports of a Joint Disciplinary Committee of Inquiry into the Barlow Clowes affair. They catalogue, albeit in a rather sorry role of the former Spicer & Oppenheim in auditing and advising companies in the failed investment empire. In doing so, they show what was so wrong with the profession in the 1980s. The auditors failed to see themselves, or act, as policemen. Although Barlow Clowes was a privately owned company when Spicer was auditors, its financial affairs, controls and integrity were plainly matters of public interest, under the remit of at least two regulators. Barlow Clowes already had a record of slack accounting, put down to rapid growth. When Mr Clowes's former accountants handed over his tax affairs, they felt it necessary to wish their successors good luck.

Yet Julian Pilkington, the partner in charge, did not even send out a letter of engagement and some audits were planned sketchily. If at all, Management was trusted too much, the auditors allowed themselves to be pressed by time into cutting corners. Worst of all, perhaps, Spicer actually planned a joint venture with Barlow Clowes at Mr Pilkington's suggestion.

They were to think up tax-efficient investment schemes and act as tax advisers. To think so commercially when acting as auditor was astonishing, even though Spicer would have shed the role had the scheme run. Have the attitudes revealed at a once-respected firm really changed? There has certainly been much agonising and reform at the profession's top level. Yet the ability to combine audit with selling lots of other services to management has been jealously protected throughout by the big firms, including Spicer's successor Touche Ross, that still control these things. The profession would prefer to focus on the judgments handed down. Some will hail the punishments as a sign that the accountancy bodies have finally got their act together. Mr Pilkington, a senior auditor, has been banned for life and charged £100,000 in costs, even though he did not intend any wrong. Four other accountants have been admonished or reprimanded and charged up to £20,000. Two finance directors of companies involved have been defrocked as

PENNINGTON



chartered accountants and another suspended. By previous standards, this is tough. It has certainly taken a long time; the inquiry was instigated six years ago and is not over. Mr Clowes has already served a third of his ten-year sentence. But those most harshly dealt with have long left practice, left the country or retired. Those who remain are treated much more gently. The British tend not to punish negligent or unthinking officials harshly for disasters. Huge lawsuits are more likely to change the culture, but auditors have now even found a way to avoid the courts' worst rigours.

£6 billion of assets under its control, but a straight scaling-up to CINMan's £16 billion is being downplayed by the vendors. If it is true that 50-plus institutions have expressed serious interest, then the bidding could be intense. The CINVen management say they see the sale as an ideal time for the tie with fund management to be broken. They suggest that in such a people-based business, the effects of demotivating an entire chunk of the workforce might be terminal. There is no doubt that the risk of a mass exodus would be a concern for any buyer. But the inside view looks towards the attractions of a management buyout and a subsequent, highly lucrative float down a slipway already well oiled by 31's market debut last year. This notion has been well scouted by the vendor, ultimately the government. Applications based in an interest in only part of CINMan will not be considered, the formal announcement makes it plain. This puts the ball in the court of the incumbent CINVen management, or those members looking to strike out on their own. Perhaps 31 might provide the necessary financial backing?

Even parsimony has its limits

KENNETH CLARKE is never one for diplomacy and ease when plain speaking and conflict will do. His duly praised Jacques de Larosière's success in cutting 30 per cent from the administrative cost of European Bank lending at its annual meeting. But he could not resist attacking member countries over the cost of the 23-strong supervisory board of directors living in London. You would think that having 100 admiring European bureaucrats in London would be welcomed by Britain. But no. This resident board accounts for 12 per cent of the bank's running costs. If it cannot be abolished altogether, now that the executive can be trusted, then its luxuries or its numbers must be cut. Mr Clarke argued for British-style cash limits to keep the numbers down to two per

delegation. How gloomy. No doubt Mr Clarke is right. The bureaucrats would be much more useful back home, where they would have better things to do than cause trouble at the bank and run up parking tickets. But he really ought to know that there could be others suggesting that if only the directors would move the bank, say to Bonn, there would be a welcome for all and still lower costs. Driving Eastern Europe into the private enterprise free market economy is a vital part of the bank's business. It is now doing it with application rather than its earlier élan. But the British message need not always be that the market economy must go hand in hand with ruthless economy and falling living standards. If the East thought that, there would be no sale.

Marking time

THE stereotype of German companies as efficient bill payers has been shattered by a survey from an export credit insurance firm. This shows that the Germans are just as prone to delaying payment when times are hard as anyone. Perhaps German companies are merely waiting while the mark continues its rise, relaxed in the knowledge that their liabilities are growing smaller with every day they delay.

Managers buy out BBA car products division for £181m

By Neil Bennett

BBA Group has sold its car brake and clutch division to its management for £181 million. The group aims to use the proceeds on acquisitions to become a world leader in industrial component manufacture. The sale of Automotive Products comes only nine years after the group bought

the company for £98 million in a failed diversification initiative. The business has 4,000 employees and last year generated sales of £293 million, more than a fifth of the group's total. It pulled itself up to a profit of £6.2 million in 1994 despite heavy rationalisation costs, after an £8 million loss the previous year. The disposal will leave BBA with net cash of £103 million and Bob Quarta, the chief executive, said that it substantially completes the disposal programme he started when he joined in 1993. The group, however, is expected to sell its aeroplanes, undercarriage manufacturing business if it receives a high enough offer. "We are going to shift gear. We have gradually come out of disposal mode and are going into acquisitive growth," Mr Quarta said. He said the group is already talking to a number of people about potential acquisitions. BBA has decided to concentrate on industries where it can develop a global business or businesses that occupy strong positions in specialist markets. In future it has decided to concentrate on friction materials, which are used

in brakes and clutches, and where it is one of the largest manufacturers in Europe and the US. Its specialist electrical business, which produces components for power transmission, is another core business as is the group's specialist textile business, while its airline flight support operations in the US have also been earmarked for expansion. Mr Quarta said he was keen to expand the friction materials business and the electrical division into the Pacific Rim and Latin America through takeovers and joint ventures. Jim O'Connor joins as head of corporate development to spearhead the expansion. The Automotive Product buyout is being backed by CINVen, the British Coal pension funds venture capital specialist and Morgan Grenfell, which has arranged the £120 million debt facilities. The company has four subsidiaries, including AP Racing, which supplies clutches and brakes to Formula One racing cars. AP Borg & Beck, the clutch manufacturing subsidiary, is one of the largest in Europe.

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AAH cites savings in Gehe bid defence

By Sarah Bagnall

AAH, the UK's largest pharmaceutical retailer and wholesaler, yesterday fired a final salvo in its defence against a £37 million offer from Gehe, the German drugs wholesaler. In a 14-page document, AAH said it expected its rationalisation programme to reap savings of at least £6 million in the current year, to March 31, rising to £11.5 million in 1996-97. The company also expects a £2.5 million improvement in gross margins in 1996-97. John Padovani, chairman, said: "This clearly shows Gehe is trying to get AAH on the cheap."

18. Dieter Kammerer, Gehe's chairman, said: "For some reason AAH is still failing to provide its shareholders with key information to assist them in evaluating the offer. We assume that this must be because the information confirms our view that the offer is most generous."



Padovani: cutting costs

The last date Gehe could make a revised offer is April

Delta Gold seeks UK cash

From Rachel Bridge in Sydney

DELTA GOLD, the Australian gold producer, fixed its sights on UK investors yesterday as it unveiled plans to float its African platinum interests on the London Stock Exchange this October. The company hopes to raise up to US\$100 million via a rights issue and public share offering. Peter Vanderspeij, chairman, said: "The Australian investment community has no knowledge of, or appetite for,

investing in Africa or in platinum. We have a large position in platinum, which is not reflected in Delta's share price." He added: "It will be a single commodity float. There's a tremendous amount of institutional interest from the UK and Europe."

Delta, which, at present, makes most of its profits from gold mining in Australia, has a platinum joint venture with BHP, the Australian minerals giant — in Zimbabwe that is due to come on stream in 1997, as well as other resources there in its own right. The two companies are also in the process of buying KIZ and subsidiaries out of the Mbonoro platinum area adjacent to their Hartley project for about \$23 million. Discussions are taking place between BHP and Delta about the possibility of combining the Mbonoro and Hartley joint ventures.



Focusing on the Continent: Roy Bishko, chairman of Tie Rack, left, with Nigel McGinley, chief executive

Tie Rack expands its empire

By Susan Gilchrist

CONTINUED expansion of its international business saw the number of Tie Rack stores overseas exceed those in the UK for the first time.

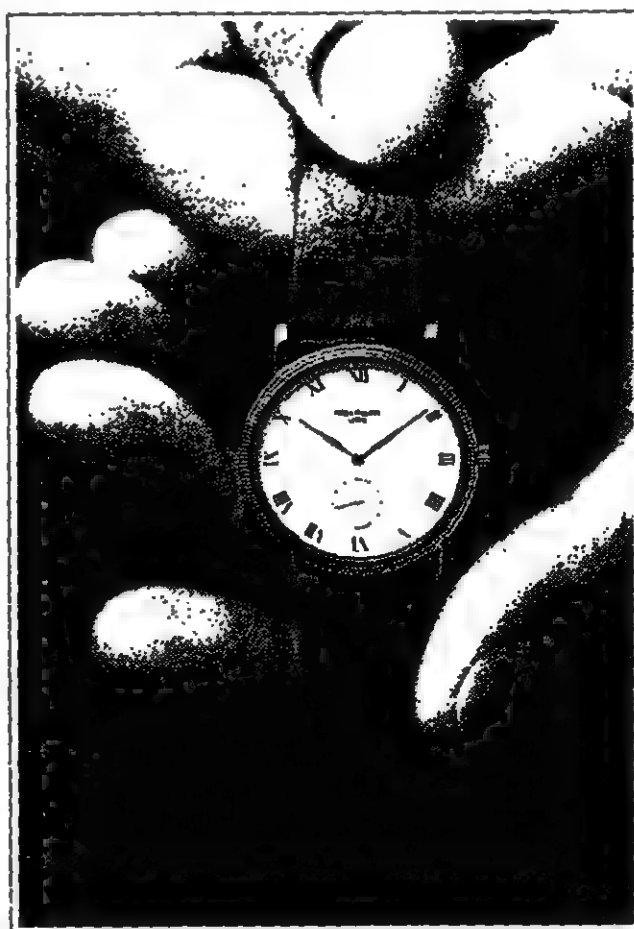
The specialist retailer now has 329 shops, 164 of them in the UK and 165 overseas. Its business spans 19 countries with Spain, Portugal, Denmark, Malaysia and Macao added during the past year. Nigel McGinley, chief executive, said the UK still accounts for almost 60 per cent of sales although he expects that figure to come down steadily over the next few years as the group accelerates its expansion abroad.

The Rack plans to open up to 50 stores in the current year, with the Continent targeted as the prime growth area. Capital expenditure is set to rise from £2.9 million to £4 million to fund this development.

The group reported an 11 per cent pre-tax profit of £7.4 million in the year to January 28. Although total sales rose 7 per cent to £83.9 million from £78.2 million, like for like sales fell 5 per cent. Mr McGinley said the group had been hit in the UK by the mild weather, which depressed sales of scarves and wraps. Its performance was also hit by the planned reduction in sales of high priced silk clothing, such as jackets, due partly to new EC silk quota restrictions. Mr McGinley said the quotas had no impact on its silk ties as these were mainly made within the EC.

Like for like sales in the first two months of the current year are slightly up in the UK and flat elsewhere. The dividend is lifted to 2.25p (1.75p) and will be paid on July 25.

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a particular Patek Philippe movement requires four years of continuous work to bring to absolute perfection, we will take four years. The result will be a watch that is unlike any other. A watch that conveys quality from first glance and first touch. A watch with a distinction: generation after generation it has been worn, loved and collected by those who are very difficult to please; those who will only accept the best. For the day that you take delivery of your Patek Philippe, you will have acquired the best. Your watch will be a masterpiece, quietly reflecting your own values. A watch that was made to be treasured.



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PHILIP PANGALOS

Eurotunnel gets that sinking feeling again

THERE were no signs of light at the end of the tunnel for investors in Eurotunnel, as shares in the debt-laden Channel Tunnel operator continued their slide, tumbling a further 32p to 186p, for a hefty two-day loss of 56p.

The latest fall was in response to Monday's losses for 1994 and gloomy statement which has prompted growing concern in the Square Mile that the company remains at risk of going bust if its 220 lending banks are not favourably disposed to the next refinancing round. One dealer said that Eurotunnel is locked into a vicious circle, with a falling share price making it harder to refinance via an equity issue.

Meanwhile, a lack of buying interest and fears that higher interest rates may be on the way prompted futures-led profit-taking ahead of the Easter weekend. An initial rally was short-lived and leading shares fell below 3,200, viewed by many as the top end of the current trading range.

An uncertain start on Wall Street dampened sentiment further and investors stayed on the sidelines. The FT-SE 100 index, up 12 points in early trade, finished down 13.3 at 3,190.9. Volume reached 594.5 million shares. A combination of trading statements, annual meetings and broker recommendations continued to dominate market activity.

Food retailers suffered a bout of indignation after Tesco reported higher profits but gave warning that gross margins had shown a slight fall on last year after the group's New Deal initiative.

Tesco eased 2 1/2p to 271p, on heavy volume of more than 14 million shares, as the supermarket accompanied a jump in final pre-tax profits to £551 million (£435 million) with plans to open 24 stores in 1995, creating 4,000 jobs.

Hoare Govett responded by upgrading its current year forecast for Tesco by £15 million to £575 million, while a string of other brokers including BZW, James Capel and Strauss Turnbull are said to have advised clients to buy the shares. Smith New Court is also said to have raised its current year forecast for Tesco by £20 million to £580 million and advised clients to switch out of Argyle, down 7 1/2p to 281 1/2p, and into Tesco, 6p lower at 425p, and into Tesco.

Elsewhere, Tarmac eased



Food retailers suffered a bout of indignation

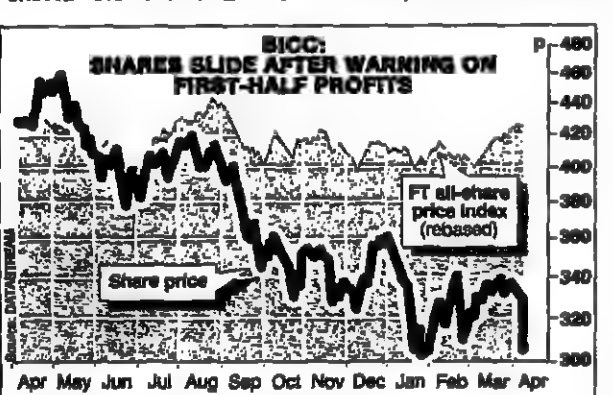
3p to 113p after the construction company predicted further significant progress this year as it unveiled better than expected final pre-tax profits of £107.2 million, against a provision-driven loss of £43.1 million last time.

Pilkington firm 2p to 173p after a reiterated buy recommendation from BZW, though BZW is not so keen on Blue

Capita Group, which provides services to the public sector, rose 9p to 149p after making a bullish statement at its annual meeting, telling shareholders that first-quarter trading is comfortably ahead of the same period in 1994. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the company's broker, responded by issuing a buy note.

Circle, 3 1/2p lower at 295 1/2p, and Redland, down 4p at 445p.

BICC tumbled 17p to 312p after Sir Robin Biggam, chairman, warned shareholders that a sharp increase in raw material costs and a high level of rationalisation charges will hit first half profits at the group's cable division. However, he said the second half "should see the benefit of



Shares slide after warning on first-half profits

mentioned by some. Hanson eased 4p to 237 1/2p.

There was also renewed takeover talk in the pharmaceutical sector, with Medeva the centre of attention, climbing 7 1/2p to 22 1/2p, after demand was prompted by renewed but vague market talk of a possible merger with Fisons, down 7 1/2p to 175 1/2p.

ICI was a good market, adding 1 1/2p to 749p, after a buy recommendation from Swiss Bank, which also tipped BOC up 6p to 735p.

MIL Holdings hardened up to 33p after a Credit Lyonnais Laing buy recommendation, while Britannia Group firmed up to 36p after a buy recommendation from Beeson Gregory.

Heywood Williams dived 17p to 243p after a downbeat statement at the company's annual meeting. Heywood said that 1994's strong growth in the US is expected to slow down, while difficult UK trading conditions are likely to continue.

Wembley came back from suspension, but the shares more than halved from 6p to 2 1/2p after the group unveiled its long-awaited rescue plan which includes Sir Brian Wolfson standing down as chairman. Clares Hultman, of Eurotherm, will become non-executive chairman and Sir Brian will take the post of deputy chairman. The restructuring involves a £62.5 million placing and offer at 2p a share, a £53.7 million debt-for-equity swap, new bank facilities of £82.5 million and a preference share conversion. Wembley 6p to 6 1/2p.

GILT-EDGED: Gilts started the day on an upward trend and received a further boost from weaker-than-expected US PPI figures. The June series of the long gilt future touched a high of £103 1/2, before weaker US Treasuries unsettled sentiment. It slipped back to close at £103 1/2, up 3 1/2 ticks on the day, on a volume of 42,000 contracts traded. Among conventional stocks, shares stretched to 3 1/2 at the longer end, while index-linked issues saw gains of about 1 1/2.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street came under pressure from profit-taking and an easier tone in the bond market during morning trading. The Dow Jones industrial average at midday was down 12.45 points at 4,185.7.

MARKET INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 4185.70 (+12.45)
S&P Composite 598.41 (+1.40)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 16268.88 (+105.78)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 8514.00 (+44.82)

Amsterdam:
ROE Index 4040.03 (+0.25)

Sydney:
AO 1992.6 (+0.11)

Frankfurt:
DAX 1903.73 (+21.40)

Singapore:
Straits 2054.60 (+10.00)

Brussels:
General 7136.05 (+12.30)

Paris:
CAC-40 1889.31 (+11.60)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 599.40 (+0.80)

London:
FT 30 2434.3 (+0.11)

FT 100 2190.9 (+12.3)

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Colossus of roads

TARMAC may be on the right road, as the company insists, but the question is whether the company will be allowed to build it as well. Neville Simms, chief executive, is substantially more bullish than many in the industry about prospects for the Private Finance Initiative, but time will tell the extent that such projects can fill Tarmac's order books.

For now, Mr Simms is keen to talk down the more gloomy forecasts from his peers in the industry of the prospects for road-building, while accepting that Tarmac's housing business missed a few tricks in failing to buy sufficient land in time to cope with the mini-boom in the spring. The concern yesterday was at the high cash outflows still being experienced. Borrowings grew from £194 million to £310 million over 1994 as the £215 million 1993 rights issue money, part of Mr

Simms' survival package, was invested, and gearing rose disproportionately from 18 per cent to 33 per cent as £152 million came off the value of the mineral reserves.

Tarmac has a self-imposed ceiling of 40 per cent for gearing, but this may be hard to keep under unless the group manages a good sale of its brick business to Istock, while the precise value of such assets is hard to estimate after the high price Christian Salvesen's brick interests fetched only last month. Progress for Tarmac is going to have to rely on further margin enhancements for quarry and building products rather than on any great improvement in the UK housing market. Pre-tax profits of £138 million this year put the shares on a fair 11 times' earnings, but it is going to be a while before the market is tempted to chase building stocks again.

Tesco

TESCO is right to be cautious about the future. While it came close to overtaking J Sainsbury as Britain's biggest food retailer, retailation from rivals is certain.

Tesco's sales growth has been undeniably impressive. Like-for-like sales at Tesco's stores grew 7 per cent in December, and about 6 per cent in January and early February. Growth then resumed at 7 per cent after the launch of Clubcard, its storecard.

Tesco has stolen a march on its rivals with Clubcard, now in the hands of around five out of every six of Tesco's regular weekly shoppers. Clubcard sales are already more than 1 per cent of the total and only need to reach between 1.5 per cent and 2 per cent to break even.

Tesco's strategy of chasing

Wembley

WEMBLEY yesterday shed its expansionist past and made way for the bean counters. As Sir Brian Wolfson steps down, in goes the company doctor, Clares Hultman, who restored Eurotherm's profits. His job will be to ensure that Wembley's assets sweat profusely and that the dividend payment is resumed as soon as possible.

Investors will have to wait a little longer for payouts as Wembley will not be fully realised for another month or two. This year looks like a write-off in profit terms - Wembley will have suffered for almost half of the year with its old debts and the picture will be spilt by another £10 million property writedown because of the extra cost of exiting its expensive lease on the Conference centre and other properties.

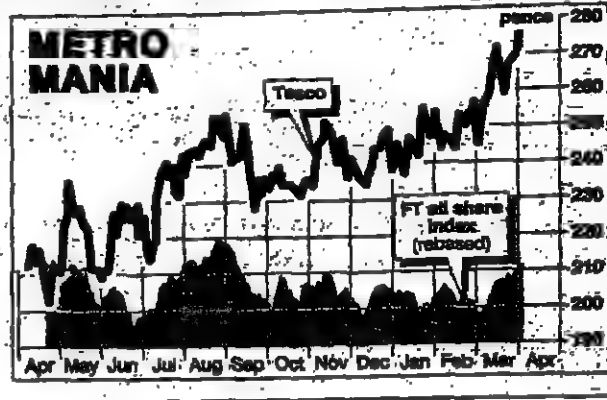
For those investors who have not thrown away their share certificates, Wembley

BBa

BOB QUARTA's disposal programme at BBa reached a fitting climax yesterday with the sale of the business that marked the zenith of the group's ill-fated expansion initiative in the mid-Eighties. Some of the businesses within Automotive Products have looked likely disposal candidates ever since Mr Quarta arrived 18 months ago. But few thought the group could pull off a disposal of the whole business at such a respectable price.

Selling businesses is always a brave move when interest rates are low, given the dilution it causes. BBa's earnings could be diluted by 7 per cent this year unless it finds acquisitions to recycle the cash into quickly. But Mr Quarta is not afraid of a little dilution, given the strength of BBa's remaining businesses. It will not be easy to find suitable acquisitions in BBa's specialist fields of electrical and electronic components. But by clearing away the distractions, Mr Quarta has given the group a clear direction and purpose. By concentrating on low-profile industrial components, BBa now has the look of a mini-BTR. If it can match the latter's performance, the prospective earnings multiple of less than 8 looks cheap.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT



Share price index (rebased)

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

Commodity	Price	Change
May 95	924.00	+0.00
Jul 95	946.00	+0.00
Sep 95	968.00	+0.00
Nov 95	990.00	+0.00
Jan 96	1012.00	+0.00
Mar 96	1034.00	+0.00
May 96	1056.00	+0.00
Jul 96	1078.00	+0.00
Sep 96	1100.00	+0.00
Nov 96	1122.00	+0.00
Jan 97	1144.00	+0.00
Mar 97	1166.00	+0.00
May 97	1188.00	+0.00
Jul 97	1210.00	+0.00
Sep 97	1232.00	+0.00
Nov 97	1254.00	+0.00
Jan 98	1276.00	+0.00
Mar 98	1298.00	+0.00
May 98	1320.00	+0.00
Jul 98	1342.00	+0.00
Sep 98	1364.00	+0.00
Nov 98	1386.00	+0.00
Jan 99	1408.00	+0.00
Mar 99	1430.00	+0.00
May 99	1452.00	+0.00
Jul 99	1474.00	+0.00
Sep 99	1496.00	+0.00
Nov 99	1518.00	+0.00
Jan 2000	1540.00	+0.00
Mar 2000	1562.00	+0.00
May 2000	1584.00	+0.00
Jul 2000	1606.00	+0.00
Sep 2000	1628.00	+0.00
Nov 2000	1650.00	+0.00
Jan 2001	1672.00	+0.00
Mar 2001	1694.00	+0.00
May 2001	1716.00	+0.00
Jul 2001	1738.00	+0.00
Sep 2001	1760.00	+0.00
Nov 2001	1782.00	+0.00
Jan 2002	1804.00	+0.00
Mar 2002	1826.00	+0.00
May 2002	1848.00	+0.00
Jul 2002	1870.00	+0.00
Sep 2002	1892.00	+0.00
Nov 2002	1914.00	+0.00
Jan 2003	1936.00	+0.00
Mar 2003	1958.00	+0.00
May 2003	1980.00	+0.00
Jul 2003	2002.00	+0.00
Sep 2003	2024.00	+0.00
Nov 2003	2046.00	+0.00
Jan 2004	2068.00	+0.00
Mar 2004	2090.00	+0.00
May 2004	2112.00	+0.00
Jul 2004	2134.00	+0.00
Sep 2004	2156.00	+0.00
Nov 2004	2178.00	+0.00
Jan 2005	2200.00	+0.00
Mar 2005	2222.00	+0.00
May 2005	2244.00	+0.00
Jul 2005	2266.00	+0.00
Sep 2005	2288.00	+0.00
Nov 2005	2310.00	+0.00
Jan 2006	2332.00	+0.00
Mar 2006	2354.00	+0.00
May 2006	2376.00	+0.00
Jul 2006	2398.00	+0.00
Sep 2006	2420.00	+0.00
Nov 2006	2442.00	+0.00
Jan 2007	2464.00	+0.00
Mar 2007	2486.00	+0.00
May 2007	2508.00	+0.00
Jul 2007	2530.00	+0.00
Sep 2007	2552.00	+0.00

THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

Put it in black and white

YOU have heard of transparent accounting. Now comes fading annual reports. An otherwise faithful City retriever of annual accounts from Companies House laments a less than satisfactory photocopy service because "the company you requested, has, in common with most pics, printed its report and accounts in a typeface which is much smaller than normal typewriting and which is not conducive to filming and faithful reproduction. Furthermore, the comparative year's figures have been printed in a light grey tone which is less capable of reproduction from microfiche film." Meanwhile, Companies House, in its leaflet CHN18, says: "If you are producing glossy, printed accounts, please save these for your shareholders and other who will appreciate them. We would still like black on white with a matt finish. A typed version or printer's proof is ideal, provided it has the necessary signatures." Companies are further reminded that letters and numbers must not be less than 1.8mm high, with a line width of not less than 0.25mm. Section 706 of the Companies Act, 1985, refers: "The law allows the Registrar of Companies to reject documents which cannot be filmed satisfactorily, and to issue a notice requiring the company to provide filmable correct or quality documents within 14 days." You have been warned.



"And pass the hat round both teams before the Cup Final"

New Iceman

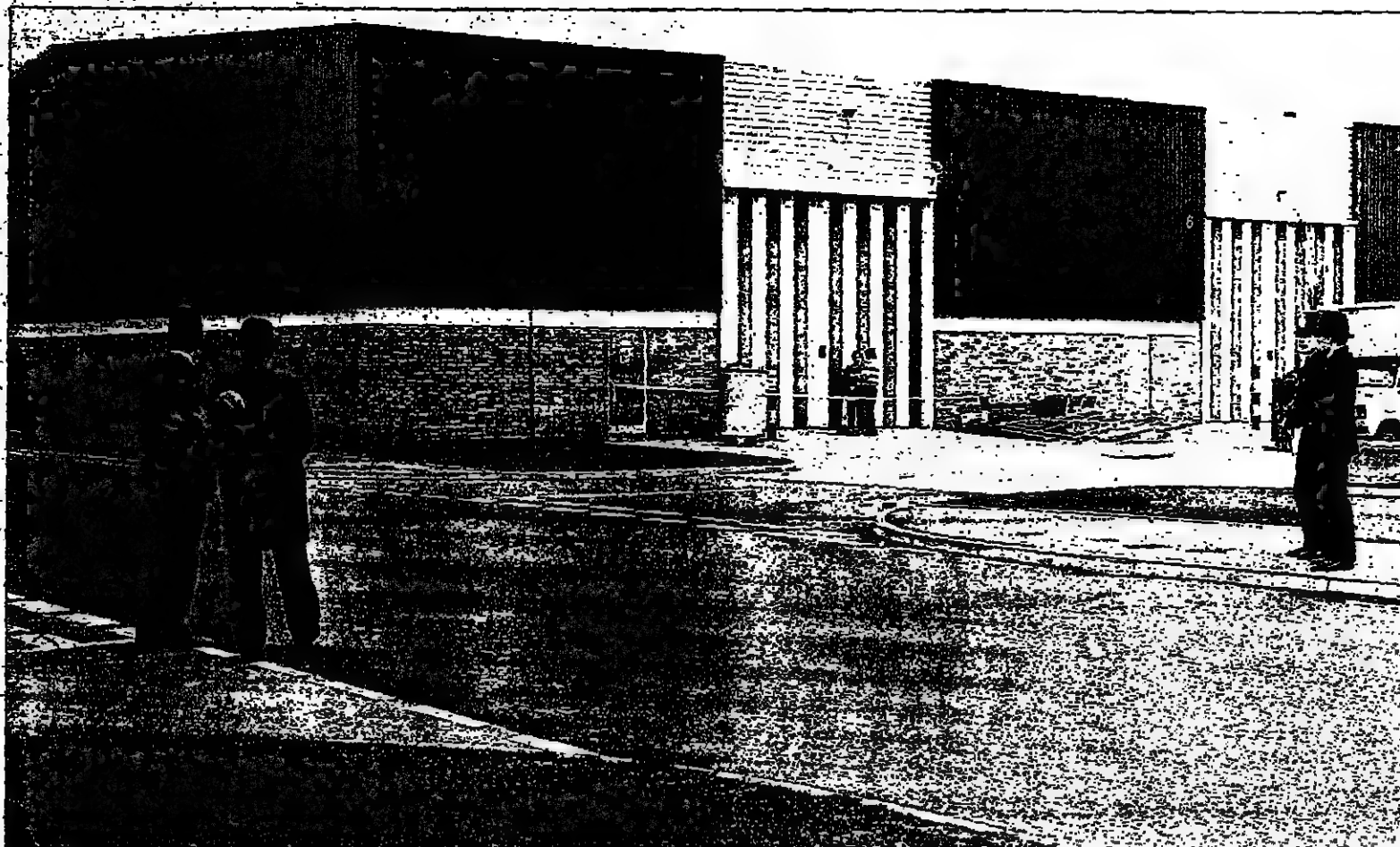
TONY RIDLEY, a former managing director of London Underground, has stepped into the breach following the sudden death of Edmund Hambly, president of the Institution of Civil Engineers. Professor Ridley, who holds the chair in transport engineering at Imperial College, London, was senior vice-president of ICE, and only due to have succeeded as president in November. Sadly, Hambly died on March 28. Ridley will now serve a 10-month term until November 5, 1996, after his election yesterday as the 131st president.

Shopping tally

IF you have ever struggled to relate to the Government's inflation figures, and wondered where the compilers shop, then tomorrow's Working Lunch programme on BBC demands your attention, especially if you are an OAP, a student, or a family with young children. Three new inflation indices based on research in 50 UK locations by Gallup will measure what has happened to ordinary people's shopping basket. The indices should be of greater and wider interest than the usual Government indicator of price pressures in the economy as a whole.

MORE collective nouns: a basket of foreign exchange dealers, a parish of clerks, a trunk of elephants, a stripe of zebras, an intrusion of journalists, a push of hushshare salesmen.

COLIN CAMPBELL



The warehouse at Heathrow where the raid took place in 1983. Gold, diamonds, platinum and travellers' cheques worth £26 million disappeared

Closing the gap on the Brink's-Mat millions

Sarah Bagnall charts the progress in recovering British crime's biggest haul

IN 1983 a gang of armed men raided the Brink's-Mat high security warehouse near Heathrow Airport and left with the biggest haul in British history. The bounty — three tons of gold bullion, 1,000 carats in diamonds, platinum and travellers' cheques worth a total of £26,369,778 — disappeared without trace, leaving the bill to be picked up by the insurers. Since then, an army of British investigators has scoured the world in their quest to return the missing millions to their rightful owners.

In the weeks immediately after the robbery, Stewart Wrightson, the broking group, handed over cheques for the £26 million to the owners of the stolen valuables. But 11 years and four months later most of the spoils are still unrecovered.

Lloyd's of London shouldered about two-thirds of the loss with the balance spread among other insurance companies. The insurers appointed investigators, Robert Bishop & Co, and offered a £2 million reward in return for information leading to convictions and recovery of the proceeds.

The investigators' task was aided by Scotland Yard, which quickly pinpointed Anthony Black, a security guard then aged 31, as the "inside man". He turned informer and received a six-year sentence for his part in the robbery. Then, many arrests later, the police discovered £1 million of assets in the form of property, gold bars and £50 notes, which were the proceeds from laundering the gold bars.

The insurers, led by Stephen Merrett, underwriter of syndicate 418, instructed a firm of London solicitors, Shaw and Croft, to represent them in their legal case for ownership rights over the assets. Thereafter, the solicitors worked alongside Robert Bishop & Co hunting down more of the missing millions. As each separate pool of money moves from one account to another, court approval is needed to gain access to data on the new account to see where it went next. In the UK this is fairly painless but when overseas courts are involved the task is more complex. The real stumbling block, however, is when the money is drawn out in cash. "It is difficult to bridge the gap. You then have to find a corresponding cash payment going into an account elsewhere," says Mr McCunn.

To date, their endeavours, with those

of the police, have resulted in the recovery of about £8 million. Mr McCunn says: "We expect to recover more than £10 million and hope to do a damn sight better than that. But between expectation and hope there is still a lot of work."

In the early years, most of the information was thrown up by criminal proceedings brought by the police. All leads were followed, however ludicrous. There were dozens of night phone calls saying "my next door neighbour is digging in his garden. I think it's gold," says Mr McCunn. There is a stack of files a foot deep on leads that went nowhere. However, some had beneficial side effects. "We often dug up information on other cases," he says.

Most of the gold was melted down and sold on the open market. The proceeds of the haul then entered the banking system, and wended their way through a web of accounts. "Money would go from one UK account to one or two abroad, then it would be juggled around between a couple of accounts before going on to a third jurisdiction or coming back here. Then it would be drawn out in cash," Mr McCunn says. The countries involved included Switzerland, Liechtenstein, America and Hong Kong. Ultimately, however, Mr McCunn believes most of the money has found its way back to the UK.

As each separate pool of money moves from one account to another, court approval is needed to gain access to data on the new account to see where it went next. In the UK this is fairly painless but when overseas courts are involved the task is more complex. The real stumbling block, however, is when the money is drawn out in cash. "It is difficult to bridge the gap. You then have to find a corresponding cash payment going into an account elsewhere," says Mr McCunn.

To date, their endeavours, with those

embroils more people and companies in the recovery net. In civil actions, individuals and companies may be liable to return laundered proceeds without having committed a criminal offence. "The fact that you didn't know it was stolen is neither here nor there," says Mr McCunn.

Furthermore, all the banks and building societies sitting on proceeds may be liable to return them while any that handled the proceeds may also be legally obliged to give assistance.

It would be fair to say that money resulting from the robbery has passed through all the clearers and a large number of building societies. For example, £13 million of proceeds was drawn over a period of time from one small country branch of Barclays Bank. Other finance houses involved included Bank of Ireland, the Royal Bank of Canada and the Union Bank of Switzerland. Behind the transactions lie a plethora of people — girlfriends, wives, friends and business colleagues of the gang, some of whom were unaware of the source of the funds. In turn, they have turned part of the proceeds into assets, such as large property developments in Docklands, estates in the home counties and overseas sunshine spots, less notable properties around the country, paintings, cars and antiques.

"A lot of people were given houses, the wife and girlfriend of one robber acquired property," says Mr McCunn. In a lot of cases the people involved were not used to having large sums of money. "They were not very sophisticated and often gave their money to a friend, who was often a criminal. So sometimes people were getting ripped off by other criminals," he says.

In amassing the information needed to take civil actions the investigators and solicitors had to be careful not to interfere with the work of Scotland Yard. Major moves had to be cleared by

the police. On one occasion, a member of Mr McCunn's team was leaving a building after serving documents on someone and recognised some of the people outside as Scotland Yard surveillance officers. It caused a stir, even though it was a separate inquiry.

By the end of 1992 the police investigation began to tail off and the investigators could not rely on the criminal proceedings to throw up leads. "It was apparent we had to spend more time and effort and money on pursuing assets," says Mr McCunn.

He believes following the trail would have been easier if the new money laundering rules had been introduced earlier. These require any unusual transactions to be reported. In America, the rules are more onerous — any transaction involving more than \$10,000 in cash has to be reported.

Having identified the recipients of funds and collated evidence, the insurers initiated legal proceedings against a string of people, companies, banks, building societies and bullion dealers. The claims vary. If action is taken against someone for wrongfully interfering with the gold bars then the insurers are claiming damages plus interest. The cases are against anyone who "gave it away, sold it, hid it or transported it," says Mr McCunn.

If action is taken against someone or a company for handling the proceeds of the haul then the claim is for the amount involved plus compound interest. If the proceeds were invested, the insurers claim ownership of any profit made. One example cited by Mr McCunn is a Docklands property where the profit is approaching £1 million.

The investigators have initiated proceedings against more than 60 people and companies. Many cases have been settled while others have been dropped. In the case of all the financial companies deals have been struck.

Earlier this year Shaw and Croft succeeded in getting summary judgments against a further 14 defendants. "Notionally this means we have court judgment for the whole lot. But that is entirely academic because they don't have the assets. So we have to continue with more actions," says Mr McCunn.

The next, and possibly last, round of legal actions starts on April 25. This involves a number of defendants and the case is due to take up to six weeks.

It is fair to say that money resulting from the robbery has passed through all the clearers



ANTHONY HARRIS

The run on the dollar is not speculative

Remember the Gnomes of Zurich? Only if you're fairly old; they were supposed to be the relentless enemies of the pound in the dying days of the Sterling area. It wasn't the Gnomes, but the fund mentalists, but legend still produces some stealthy culprit whenever markets seem out of control. A couple of years ago it was said to be the hedge funds that forced sterling out of the ERM; they deserve no such credit. Now it is the dollar which is under attack. Most of the hedge funds are by now either broke or walking wounded, but reports still speak vaguely of speculators. They couldn't be more wrong.

Indeed, the eeriest thing about the current dollar debate is the absence of speculation. I have met no one who knows anyone who is shorting the dollar now, more to the point, has John Percival's usually well-informed *Currency Bulletin*. The reason, in a word, is Barings: that was only the worst case in a world where nearly all the usual culprits have taken dangerous losses on their open positions in

I have met no one who knows anyone who is shorting the dollar

dollar defence pact. Those who run emerging economies have more urgent priorities than joining the international capital management club.

Calls for America to solve the dollar problem by taking action to get rid of the US trade deficit are at least directed to the right address; but the time-scale is wrong. The problem is seen as urgent, but this cure would take years. It would probably entail turning the US budget deficit into a large permanent surplus — politically implausible, and a major deflationary threat for the rest of the world. In the long run the US, as a debtor nation, will have to get into current account surplus, and an under-valued dollar is part of the programme; but like any major structural change, this must be made slowly if it is not to be disruptive.

Theoretically, there is a quick fix: the US should offer to convert dollar reserves into any other currency the holder wishes, join a world subject to balance of payments constraints, and bequeath its reserve currency privileges to Japan and Germany (against their wishes). But such a historic change would only be contemplated in a real crisis. We are not there yet.

More important are the national treasuries who fell into the same trap, and issued yen-denominated Samurai bonds — mainly some time ago, though Sweden managed to float an issue this year, just before the yen broke loose. What follows is prudence, not speculation. Starting with Taiwan, countries finding themselves with dollar reserves and yen debts have been switching their reserves into yen.

For some, this represents

BUSINESS LETTERS

Seaboard spreads shares widely among employees

From the Chairman of Seaboard.
Sir, In *The Times* of March 31 you published a letter from David Elligate under the headline "Seaboard options". Mr Elligate suggested that Seaboard's policies on share options for employees are unfairly biased in favour of executive directors.

Mr Elligate described himself as a "Seaboard shareholder", but failed to mention that he is also a former employee of

Seaboard who left the company in 1994. As a member of the management staff Mr Elligate was granted some 20,000 share options, which he has exercised.

Mr Elligate is a good example of the general point I have been seeking to make, namely that in Seaboard we have offered facilities for share ownership widely amongst all our employees. For example, some 3,000 employees throughout the company took

advantage of the 1994 matching offer and evidently had a good deal more interest in it than Mr Elligate suggests. Currently Seaboard employees have options over 10 million shares in the company, of which only a small proportion relates to directors. Yours faithfully,
SIR KEITH STUART,
Chairman,
Seaboard,
Forest Gate, Brighton Road,
Crawley, West Sussex.

Efficient miners

From Tyrone O'Sullivan.
Sir, Regarding the report in *The Times* (April 7) on Tower Colliery's four-day week.

Before we became the owners of Tower Colliery, eight months ago, we decided that if we could produce our coal in four days we could use the fifth day for maintenance, so allowing our men to have their weekends free.

Tower is now a very efficient mine owned by the workforce. We are now up to 100 per cent efficient. We can mine our coal for all our weekly contracts in four working days. And we keep two weeks' coal in stock at the surface in case of problems underground.

Our contracts for 430,000 tonnes per year are in place. We are not looking for huge extra tonnages. But if smaller orders become available in the market, so that we could diversify our coal use for the future we would of course examine them.

I hope this explains to people that four-day working does not always mean a company is in trouble. Quality of life should also be something that companies look at besides excessive profit. Yours faithfully,
TYRONE O'SULLIVAN,
Director,
Tower Colliery,
Hirwaun,
Mid Glamorgan.

Huge incinerator is unwanted addition to Thames Gateway sites

From Mary Jaques.
Sir, Martin Waller writes about the revised application for the Belvedere incinerator by Cory Environmental and PowerGen ("PowerGen revises incinerator plan", April 3).

This will be the largest incinerator in Europe (contravening the European directives of local disposal for local waste). No mention was made that it will be in adjacent plots to a massive sludge incinerator and a smaller local incinerator. Across the water is yet another sludge incinerator and the new Barking Power Station. Down the river, the Littlebrook and Tilbury power stations. Upriver, the SELCHP incinerator and Greenwich Power Station. No mention is made that a third of the boys under three in

neighbouring Thamesmead have had an asthmatic attack and that childhood respiratory disease is the highest in the South East. No mention is made of the latest findings by the USEPA that there are no safe limits for dioxins. No mention is made of the massive transportation of waste, possibly from abroad, as a third of London's waste is not available for disposal. No mention is made that as the Government's recycling targets take effect, waste will become more toxic. A bland statement from Cory that "the plant is a kilometre from the nearest housing" presumably implies that there is a magical block against pollution. Cory and PowerGen doubtless consider this to be a

profitable deal, which alone justifies the devastation it will wreak, not only to the immediate locality but to the whole of the Thames Gateway. Profit at any price is no doubt acceptable business ethics. But to state that they have altered their plans "sufficiently to overcome the locals' fears" is not only laughable, but insulting to a community which cares for its environment and for the people in it. And they certainly have not improved public transport. To date, the only offer to the community has been a park bench! Yours faithfully,
MARY JAUQUES,
Greenwich Action to Stop Pollution (Gasp),
7 Earlswood Street,
Greenwich, SE10.

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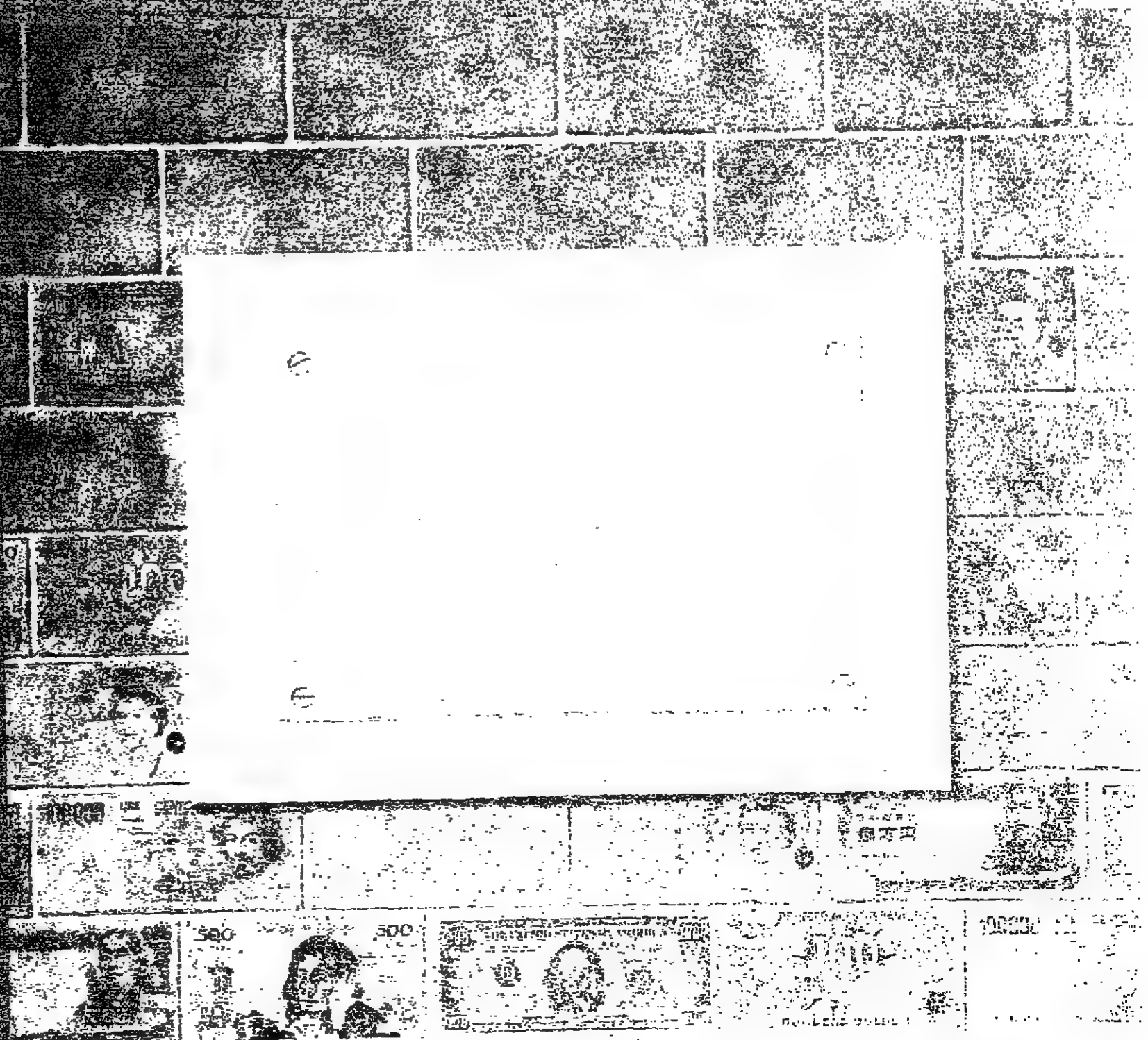
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High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
BANKS						
10.50	10.40	Barclays	10.45	-0.05	4.5%	12.5
10.20	10.10	HSBC	10.15	-0.05	4.2%	13.0
10.10	10.00	London City	10.05	-0.05	4.0%	13.5
10.00	9.90	Midland	9.95	-0.05	3.8%	14.0
9.80	9.70	NatWest	9.75	-0.05	3.5%	14.5
9.60	9.50	Paragon	9.55	-0.05	3.2%	15.0
9.40	9.30	Prudential	9.35	-0.05	3.0%	15.5
9.20	9.10	Royal Bank	9.15	-0.05	2.8%	16.0
9.00	8.90	Santander	8.95	-0.05	2.5%	16.5
8.80	8.70	TSB	8.75	-0.05	2.2%	17.0
8.60	8.50	Windsor	8.55	-0.05	2.0%	17.5
DISTRIBUTORS						
10.50	10.40	Asda	10.45	-0.05	4.5%	12.5
10.20	10.10	Debenhams	10.15	-0.05	4.2%	13.0
10.10	10.00	John Lewis	10.05	-0.05	4.0%	13.5
10.00	9.90	Next	9.95	-0.05	3.8%	14.0
9.80	9.70	Primark	9.75	-0.05	3.5%	14.5
9.60	9.50	Primor	9.55	-0.05	3.2%	15.0
9.40	9.30	Primor	9.35	-0.05	3.0%	15.5
9.20	9.10	Primor	9.15	-0.05	2.8%	16.0
9.00	8.90	Primor	8.95	-0.05	2.5%	16.5
8.80	8.70	Primor	8.75	-0.05	2.2%	17.0
8.60	8.50	Primor	8.55	-0.05	2.0%	17.5
BREWERIES						
10.50	10.40	Asahi	10.45	-0.05	4.5%	12.5
10.20	10.10	Beck's	10.15	-0.05	4.2%	13.0
10.10	10.00	Carlsberg	10.05	-0.05	4.0%	13.5
10.00	9.90	Heineken	9.95	-0.05	3.8%	14.0
9.80	9.70	Kaiser	9.75	-0.05	3.5%	14.5
9.60	9.50	King	9.55	-0.05	3.2%	15.0
9.40	9.30	Miller	9.35	-0.05	3.0%	15.5
9.20	9.10	Stout	9.15	-0.05	2.8%	16.0
9.00	8.90	Tottenham	8.95	-0.05	2.5%	16.5
8.80	8.70	Watney	8.75	-0.05	2.2%	17.0
8.60	8.50	Windsor	8.55	-0.05	2.0%	17.5
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS						
10.50	10.40	Asda	10.45	-0.05	4.5%	12.5
10.20	10.10	Debenhams	10.15	-0.05	4.2%	13.0
10.10	10.00	John Lewis	10.05	-0.05	4.0%	13.5
10.00	9.90	Next	9.95	-0.05	3.8%	14.0
9.80	9.70	Primark	9.75	-0.05	3.5%	14.5
9.60	9.50	Primor	9.55	-0.05	3.2%	15.0
9.40	9.30	Primor	9.35	-0.05	3.0%	15.5
9.20	9.10	Primor	9.15	-0.05	2.8%	16.0
9.00	8.90	Primor	8.95	-0.05	2.5%	16.5
8.80	8.70	Primor	8.75	-0.05	2.2%	17.0
8.60	8.50	Primor	8.55	-0.05	2.0%	17.5
ENGINEERING VEHICLES						
10.50	10.40	Asda	10.45	-0.05	4.5%	12.5
10.20	10.10	Debenhams	10.15	-0.05	4.2%	13.0
10.10	10.00	John Lewis	10.05	-0.05	4.0%	13.5
10.00	9.90	Next	9.95	-0.05	3.8%	14.0
9.80	9.70	Primark	9.75	-0.05	3.5%	14.5
9.60	9.50	Primor	9.55	-0.05	3.2%	15.0
9.40	9.30	Primor	9.35	-0.05	3.0%	15.5
9.20	9.10	Primor	9.15	-0.05	2.8%	16.0
9.00	8.90	Primor	8.95	-0.05	2.5%	16.5
8.80	8.70	Primor	8.75	-0.05	2.2%	17.0
8.60	8.50	Primor	8.55	-0.05	2.0%	17.5
FOOD MANUFACTURERS						
10.50	10.40	Asda	10.45	-0.05	4.5%	12.5
10.20	10.10	Debenhams	10.15	-0.05	4.2%	13.0
10.10	10.00	John Lewis	10.05	-0.05	4.0%	13.5
10.00	9.90	Next	9.95	-0.05	3.8%	14.0
9.80	9.70	Primark	9.75	-0.05	3.5%	14.5
9.60	9.50	Primor	9.55	-0.05	3.2%	15.0
9.40	9.30	Primor	9.35	-0.05	3.0%	15.5
9.20	9.10	Primor	9.15	-0.05	2.8%	16.0
9.00	8.90	Primor	8.95	-0.05	2.5%	16.5
8.80	8.70	Primor	8.75	-0.05	2.2%	17.0
8.60	8.50	Primor	8.55	-0.05	2.0%	17.5
ELECTRICITY						
10.50	10.40	Asda	10.45	-0.05	4.5%	12.5
10.20	10.10	Debenhams	10.15	-0.05	4.2%	13.0
10.10	10.00	John Lewis	10.05	-0.05	4.0%	13.5
10.00	9.90	Next	9.95	-0.05	3.8%	14.0
9.80	9.70	Primark	9.75	-0.05	3.5%	14.5
9.60	9.50	Primor	9.55	-0.05	3.2%	15.0
9.40	9.30	Primor	9.35	-0.05	3.0%	15.5
9.20	9.10	Primor	9.15	-0.05	2.8%	16.0
9.00	8.90	Primor	8.95	-0.05	2.5%	16.5
8.80	8.70	Primor	8.75	-0.05	2.2%	17.0
8.60	8.50	Primor	8.55	-0.05	2.0%	17.5
ELECTRONIC & ELECT						
10.50	10.40	Asda	10.45	-0.05	4.5%	12.5
10.20	10.10	Debenhams	10.15	-0.05	4.2%	13.0
10.10	10.00	John Lewis	10.05	-0.05	4.0%	13.5
10.00	9.90	Next	9.95	-0.05	3.8%	14.0
9.80	9.70	Primark	9.75	-0.05	3.5%	14.5
9.60	9.50	Primor	9.55	-0.05	3.2%	15.0
9.40	9.30	Primor	9.35	-0.05	3.0%	15.5
9.20	9.10	Primor	9.15	-0.05	2.8%	16.0
9.00	8.90	Primor	8.95	-0.05	2.5%	16.5
8.80	8.70	Primor	8.75	-0.05	2.2%	17.0
8.60	8.50	Primor	8.55	-0.05	2.0%	17.5
BUILDING MATERIALS						
10.50	10.40	Asda	10.45	-0.05	4.5%	12.5
10.20	10.10	Debenhams	10.15	-0.05	4.2%	13.0
10.10	10.00	John Lewis	10.05	-0.05	4.0%	13.5
10.00	9.90	Next	9.95	-0.05	3.8%	14.0
9.80	9.70	Primark	9.75	-0.05	3.5%	14.5
9.60	9.50	Primor	9.55	-0.05	3.2%	15.0
9.40	9.30	Primor	9.35	-0.05	3.0%	15.5
9.20	9.10	Primor	9.15	-0.05	2.8%	16.0
9.00	8.90	Primor	8.95	-0.05	2.5%	16.5
8.80	8.70	Primor	8.75	-0.05	2.2%	17.0
8.60	8.50	Primor	8.55	-0.05	2.0%	17.5
BUSINESS SERVICES						
10.50	10.40	Asda	10.45	-0.05	4.5%	12.5
10.20	10.10	Debenhams	10.15	-0.05	4.2%	13.0
10.10	10.00	John Lewis	10.05	-0.05	4.0%	13.5
10.00	9.90	Next	9.95	-0.05	3.8%	14.0
9.80	9.70	Primark	9.75	-0.05	3.5%	14.5
9.60	9.50	Primor	9.55	-0.05	3.2%	15.0
9.40	9.30	Primor	9.35	-0.05	3.0%	15.5
9.20	9.10	Primor	9.15	-0.05	2.8%	16.0
9.00	8.90	Primor	8.95	-0.05	2.5%	16.5
8.80	8.70	Primor	8.75	-0.05	2.2%	17.0
8.60	8.50	Primor	8.55	-0.05	2.0%	17.5
CHEMICALS						
10.50	10.40	Asda	10.45	-0.05	4.5%	12.5
10.20	10.10	Debenhams	10.15	-0.05	4.2%	13.0
10.10	10.00	John Lewis	10.05	-0.05	4.0%	13.5
10.00	9.90	Next	9.95	-0.05	3.8%	14.0
9.80	9.70	Primark	9.75	-0.05	3.5%	14.5
9.60	9.50	Primor	9.55	-0.05	3.2%	15.0
9.40	9.30	Primor	9.35	-0.05	3.0%	15.5
9.20	9.10	Primor	9.15	-0.05	2.8%	16.0
9.00	8.90	Primor	8.95	-0.05	2.5%	16.5
8.80	8.70	Primor	8.75	-0.05	2.2%	17.0
8.60	8.50	Primor	8.55	-0.05	2.0%	17.5

1985 Low Company Price +/- % P/E							1985 High Low Company Price +/- % P/E							1985 Low Company Price +/- % P/E							1985 High Low Company Price +/- % P/E																																																																																																																																																																																													
110	109	108	107	106	105	104	103	102	101	100	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91	90	89	88	87	86	85	84	83	82	81	80	79	78	77	76	75	74	73	72	71	70	69	68	67	66	65	64	63	62	61	60	59	58	57	56	55	54	53	52	51	50	49	48	47	46	45	44	43	42	41	40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8	-9	-10	-11	-12	-13	-14	-15	-16	-17	-18	-19	-20	-21	-22	-23	-24	-25	-26	-27	-28	-29	-30	-31	-32	-33	-34	-35	-36	-37	-38	-39	-40	-41	-42	-43	-44	-45	-46	-47	-48	-49	-50	-51	-52	-53	-54	-55	-56	-57	-58	-59	-60	-61	-62	-63	-64	-65	-66	-67	-68	-69	-70	-71	-72	-73	-74	-75	-76	-77	-78	-79	-80	-81	-82	-83	-84	-85	-86	-87	-88	-89	-90	-91	-92	-93	-94	-95	-96	-97	-98	-99	-100
110	109	108	107	106	105	104	103	102	101	100	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91	90	89	88	87	86	85	84	83	82	81	80	79	78	77	76	75	74	73	72	71	70	69	68	67	66	65	64	63	62	61	60	59	58	57	56	55	54	53	52	51	50	49	48	47	46	45	44	43	42	41	40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8	-9	-10	-11	-12	-13	-14	-15	-16	-17	-18	-19	-20	-21	-22	-23	-24	-25	-26	-27	-28	-29	-30	-31	-32	-33	-34	-35	-36	-37	-38	-39	-40	-41	-42	-43	-44	-45	-46	-47	-48	-49	-50	-51	-52	-53	-54	-55	-56	-57	-58	-59	-60	-61	-62	-63	-64	-65	-66	-67	-68	-69	-70	-71	-72	-73	-74	-75	-76	-77	-78	-79	-80	-81	-82	-83	-84	-85	-86	-87	-88	-89	-90	-91	-92	-93	-94	-95	-96	-97	-98	-99	-100
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110	109	108	107	106	105	104	103	102	101	100	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91	90	89	88	87	86	85	84	83	82	81	80	79	78	77	76	75	74	73	72	71	70	69	68	67	66	65	64	63	62	61	60	59	58	57	56	55	54	53	52	51	50	49	48	47	46	45	44	43	42	41	40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8	-9	-10	-11	-12	-13	-14	-15	-16	-17	-18	-19	-20	-21	-22	-23	-24	-25	-26	-27	-28	-29	-30	-31	-32	-33	-34	-35	-36	-37	-38	-39	-40	-41	-42	-43	-44	-45	-46	-47	-48	-49	-50	-51	-52	-53	-54	-55	-56	-57	-58	-59	-60	-61	-62	-63	-64	-65	-66	-67	-68	-69	-70	-71	-72	-73	-74	-75	-76	-77	-78	-79	-80	-81	-82	-83	-84	-85	-86	-87	-88	-89	-90	-91	-92	-93	-94	-95	-96	-97	-98	-99	-100
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110	109	108	107	106	105	104	103	102	101	100	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91	90	89	88	87	86	85	84	83	82	81	80	79	78	77	76	75	74	73	72	71	70	69	68	67	66	65	64	63	62	61	60	59	58	57	56	55	54	53	52	51	50	49	48	47	46	45	44	43	42	41	40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8	-9	-10	-11	-12	-13	-14	-15	-16	-17	-18	-19	-20	-21	-22	-23	-24	-25	-26	-27	-28	-29	-30	-31	-32	-33	-34	-35	-36	-37	-38	-39	-40	-41	-42	-43	-44	-45	-46	-47	-48	-49	-50	-51	-52	-53	-54	-55	-56	-57	-58	-59	-60	-61	-62	-63	-64	-65	-66	-67	-68	-69	-70	-71	-72	-73	-74	-75	-76	-77	-78	-79	-80	-81	-82	-83	-84	-85	-86	-87	-88	-89	-90	-91	-92	-93	-94	-95	-96	-97	-98	-99	-100
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The Independent Television Commission likes what it sees, but says ITV should have more innovative drama, comedy and religion

We all know about the vicar scolding the congregation for those who are not in church. Most also know about the headmaster blaming the parents for children who don't do their homework.

But the Independent Television Commission is more sophisticated and less righteous than other preachers. Its annual performance review yesterday was all the more conspicuous for being directed at the wrong ears. The ITC spelt out for the 15 holders of regional licences how each should try harder to deliver on programme promises. It did the same for Channel 4, GMTV and Teletext.

The commission's main concern, however, is the performance of the ITV network. Yet the daily schedules of ITV at peak time (6-10.30pm) are, for practical purposes, out of the companies' control. What goes out then is in the hands of their servant who is also their master: the ITV Network Centre. The ITC has no authority

to review the performance of the Network Centre.

The companies propose, but the Network Centre disposes. The centre, whose formation was approved by the ITC, has a clear mandate: to design a schedule which can pull in big audiences and advertising revenues during the main viewing hours. This the Network Centre has done brilliantly.

Thus the ITC yesterday could praise the ITV companies for the solid achievement of what it calls "Channel 3". Profits are up, advertising revenues are up, ITV's share of viewing, in a year of increased competition, has held steady. At peak time ITV still commands 46 per cent of the national audience. And not with schlock drama accounted for more than a third

of all ITV viewing last year.

Like a headmaster, however, the ITC could not simply shower praise. It had to find something to criticise. ITV, it said, is not taking enough risks. The ITV companies, it implied, should persuade the Network Centre to be more innovative in drama and comedy — and also to include more religion, and more arts (not too late).

"It might seem perverse," David Glencross, the ITC executive director, conceded, "to acknowledge success but to recommend changes." Not so much perverse as conscientious. The ITC has a tough role — as tough in its ambiguous way as that of the BBC governors. In sum, the regulator must impose public-service obligations on a commercial television network which, by law, is commanded to be



BRENDA MADDOX

more commercial than ever before.

Prominent among the ITC's regrets are that various regional companies are failing to get many programmes on to the national network. But what if the companies offer risk-taking, groundbreaking programmes to the Network Centre and the centre rejects them? "They've just got to

fight," Sir George Russell, ITC chairman, said.

That's not much help. Perhaps the smaller companies, who have the greatest trouble in squeezing on to the national grid, could learn from the example of Channel Television. Blessed with a murder trial in Jersey which made national news, Channel produced a documentary about the crime which ran on the ITV network on the evening that the sentences were announced. Perhaps Border, Grampian, HTV and Ulster should be on the look-out for their very own O.J.

The ITC is not a toothless watchdog, by any means. Ask Granada, which had to pay a massive fine for breaching the ITC's rules about "product placement" — giving, in effect, free

advertising. What the ITC is is an uneasy bridge between the old and the new: between the era of regulation and deregulation, and between the youth and age.

The ITC reprimands reveal clearly how Britain is two nations, young and old. Channel 4 is reproached for bad taste on its late-night weekend show *The Word*, with particular reference to jokes about colonialism and vomiting. LWT's *Blind Date* is scolded for increasing the suggestion that its volunteer couples are seeking not love but sex. The ITV network is criticised for allowing too abrupt an end to the 9pm "watershed" which marks the end of so-called "family viewing".

What the ITC wants is "a gradual transition to more adult content". Which age group is being

protected, however? The later in the evening the E-word and the F-words appear, the greater the chance that those whom these really offend will have shuffled off to bed.

Soon the concept of the "watershed" will have to be re-examined for its Mary Poppins unreality: a vision of a bygone day when households contained two parents and one television set instead of vice versa. But, as Adam said to Eve (according to Henry Kissinger on his recent London visit), as they left the garden: "We live in an age of transition."

The ITC is a regulatory agency in the age of transition. It is doing the best it can with an unresolvable assignment: to impose range, diversity, culture and religion on a network freed, and designed by the Broadcasting Act of 1990 to be nakedly commercial. To which the Network Centre can only reply: why tinker with success?

● Brenda Maddox writes on Media every Wednesday.

Too successful at peak practice

When violence must be cut

Alexandra Frean reports on new BBC guidelines on showing graphic news scenes

The BBC's news and current affairs department has produced an extraordinary and violent training video in an attempt to teach its producers and reporters how best to handle shots of disaster, destruction and death.

The tape — the ultimate "video nasty" — is a compilation of the most disturbing news footage the BBC has gathered over the past decade or so, much of which was considered too upsetting to broadcast. It includes grisly scenes of hundreds of burnt bodies in the aftermath of an allied missile attack on an Iraqi bunker in 1991; shots of children hacked to death in the Rwandan genocide in 1994; pictures of a crowd in South Africa killing a man with machetes in 1986; and shots of an Austrian world cup skier crashing to her death on the slopes in January 1994.

The video is inter-cut with footage of BBC television news programmes containing coverage of the same events, to illustrate at which point it was decided to switch off the cameras and to tell the story in words rather than pictures.

Tony Hall, managing director of BBC news and current affairs, who asked for the video to be produced, says it is in part a reaction to new technologies such as the satellite transmission, which have



Harry Collinson, right, just before he was shot in 1991, from a sequence the BBC decided at the time should be cut.

increased the volume of news pictures available to news editors and the speed at which they arrive. On a typical day, the BBC newsrooms in White City receive five hours of international footage.

The video is also a reaction to increasing awareness of audience sensitivities towards television violence in news programmes. "We wanted to get across the issues raised by the portrayal of violence in news programmes. We want to show the minimum amount of violence necessary for the audience to appreciate what has happened — that is what our audience research shows is correct," Hall says.

While the new research by the BBC shows, for example, that audiences are more tolerant of violence in factual shows than in drama, they are highly discerning. Lingering shots of pools of blood filmed in the aftermath of disasters are no longer acceptable, as audiences find such sequences unnecessarily upsetting. "We have pleas from people saying, 'don't show pictures of people who are dead or dying.' We have to listen to them," Hall says.

The video also outlines for the first time a new BBC policy on violence in news pro-

grammes and the 9pm family viewing watershed, which is usually used for dramas and documentaries but less in news programmes.

"For the first time, we are saying that we will be more sensitive before nine o'clock and that after nine, we can show more," Hall says.

The tape stresses to reporters and programme editors the importance of issuing a warning when footage is about to be transmitted that might upset children or people who are squeamish, so that they have the opportunity to turn away or switch off. It also makes an important distinction between footage that is acceptable in a documentary and pictures suitable for news bulletins.

"You can take in more during a long film than you can in a short news bulletin. If you show charred bodies, like in the Baghdad bunker scenes, for three to four minutes, audiences have no time to reflect and actually take in what they have seen because the next moment you might be into an item on Parliament or the football results," Hall says.

The 1986 machete stabbing in South Africa, for example, was shown in full during a BBC documentary, but news bulletins cut off very early in the sequence, just after the victim had started to run from his attackers.

In June 1991, when a Durham County planning officer, Harry Collinson, was shot dead by a property owner, Albert Dryden, while trying to enforce a demolition order —

again in full view of the cameras — the BBC decided, not to show pictures of Mr Collinson immediately before and after the killing, believing it would be too distressing.

While news editors, reporters and camera operators might find the video useful, it raises some tricky dilemmas. What incentive is there, for example, for camera operators to take risks to obtain exclu-



Footage of Albert Dryden, which viewers saw

sive footage in a war zone, if they know that there is a strong chance it might never pass the BBC's "sensitivity test"?

The video also begs the question of when the desire not to offend viewers results in censorship of information and images that the public have a right to see.

Hall admits the first question is difficult to resolve, but believes the answer to be the second question lies in the writing skills of reporters. "With a good correspondent and fine writing we can see the whole picture of devastation in words," he says.

John Whittingdale argues that broadcasting controls must be relaxed if Britain is to lead the TV revolution

The last 15 years have seen a revolution in broadcasting. Choice has dramatically increased, with another 32 channels available from the Astra satellite alone, and more still from other satellites and on cable.

Yet the opportunities for further expansion are even greater as technology makes available new means of transmission, such as digital broadcasting and video on demand. Consumers have shown that they will willingly spend money to increase their choice of programmes. The media industry, already worth £30 billion to the UK, is potentially worth many times that figure if we do the right things now.

But excessive regulation is now in danger of holding back the development of technology. If we are to get maximum advantage from the opportunities which are opening up, the Government must relax its controls and let the free market set the pace.

Some argue that standards and quality will suffer if programme content is left purely to consumers to decide; it is claimed that if popularity is the sole determinant then quality programming and minority viewers will lose out. Experience indicates the reverse.

The explosion of channels has led to minority tastes being better served by the commercial sector than they ever were by state-owned or regulated broadcasters. As well as 24-hour news channels, consumers can now choose between channels dedicated to education, science, music, sports and the interests of the ethnic minorities. Competition forces broadcasters to be innovative and more channels provide a wider range of programmes, more of which are specifically targeted at minority audiences.

Public service broadcasting is also guaranteed to continue by the BBC whose existence as a broadcaster, financed by public subsidy is justifiable as long as it provides high-quality programmes which the commercial sector is unlikely to produce.

The Broadcasting Act 1990 represented the first tentative step in the process of giving more freedom to the industry. But technological development since then has already made the regulatory framework it created unsustainable.

The time has come for a further measure of deregulation. Digital broadcasting will dramatically increase the number of channels available.

The first digital franchises should be given to the existing ITV franchise holders which will allow them to broadcast on analogue and digital frequencies at the same time.

However, as the number increases, the need for regulation diminishes and those

Free the TV market



Whittingdale: competition

wishing to establish new services should be free to do so. With the advent of so many new channels, the need for the regulation of content is also reduced and the point will soon be reached when quality thresholds for the existing commercial channels will be redundant.

Cable services should also be freed from excessive regulation. The bar on public telecommunications operators such as BT broadcasting entertainment services is intended to allow cable franchise holders the time and confidence to construct their own networks. However, the Government should make it clear now that once it expires in

2001, the ban will not be renewed.

As for satellite, there is no limit to the potential number of broadcasters once digital technology is introduced. All that is required is for there to be open access to the system in all broadcasters on fair and reasonable terms. This will require agreement so that subscribers need just one decoder box capable of unscrambling all the channels to which they subscribe.

As more restrictions on competition are removed, the producer power of any one channel, medium or owner will be steadily reduced. If British companies are to compete on an international scale and exploit new opportunities, they will need considerable financial resources. Allowing companies to operate and invest across a range of media is the means by which those resources can be found. The present restrictions on cross-media ownership threaten to deprive the industry of investment when it needs it most.

The media should be treated in the same way as any other industry. General competition law, at both national and European levels, is sufficient to ensure that media monopolies do not arise.

Britain led the world in the first industrial revolution. In the broadcasting revolution, there is every reason to think that we can do so again.

● New Policies for the Media, a Conservative Political Centre paper by John Whittingdale, MP for Colchester, South and Maldon, is published tomorrow (CPC Bookshop, 32 South Square, London SW1P 3HH, £5: 071-222 9000, ext 2023).

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BBC sport clearly on the ball

THE BBC's dominance of TV sports coverage among terrestrial broadcasters is illustrated by this week's chart. ITV and Channel 4 have only six entries, Alexandra Frean writes. Meanwhile, the Independent Television Commission's review of ITV's perfor-

mance in 1994, published yesterday, suggests that the gap between ITV and BBC might not just be affected by the Beeb's control of broadcast rights to sporting events, but also by presentational skills, such as commentaries. ITV was praised for its coverage of rugby.

TIMES TV TOP 20 SPORTS PROGRAMMES

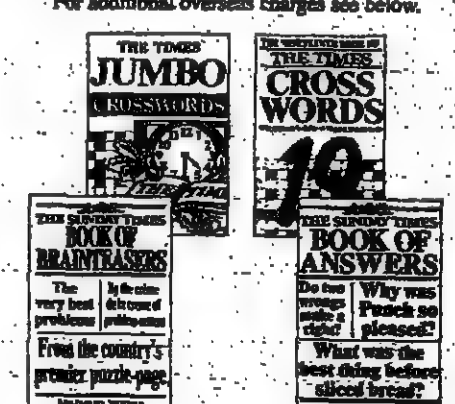
Programme	Date	Time	Chan.	Producer	Genre	Audience All 4+
1. Soccer Aid	Sun 28	16.45	BBC2	BBC/TV Globo	Motor racing	6.9
2. Grandstand	Sat 25	18.47	BBC1	BBC	Composite	5.8
3. First Step	Sat 25	18.48	BBC1	BBC	Composite	5.1
4. Sportsworld	Wed 22	22.24	BBC2	BBC	Composite	3.9
5. Rugby League	Sat 25	14.57	BBC1	BBC	Rugby	3.1
6. Grandstand: X-Country (Men)	Sat 25	13.05	BBC1	BBC	Artists	2.4
7. Grandstand: X-Country (Ladies)	Sat 25	14.34	BBC1	BBC	Artists	2.3
8. Grandstand: Football Focus	Sat 25	12.21	BBC1	BBC	Football	2.3
9. Top Gear Motorsport	Fri 24	19.30	BBC2	BBC	Motor racing	2.6
10. The Match	Sun 28	14.33	ITV	ITV Sport	Football	1.8
11. They Who Dared	Thu 23	18.47	BBC2	BBC	Composite	1.3
12. Saturday Sport	Sat 25	17.38	BBC1	BBC South & East	Composite	1.2
13. Rugby Special	Sun 28	14.01	BBC2	Channel 4 Sport	Rugby	1.2
14. Channel 4 Racing	Sat 25	14.40	CH4	Three on Four/Sunrise & View	Horse racing	1.0
15. Kick Off	Fri 24	19.50	ITV	Granada Television	Football	0.8
16. Grandstand: Gulls Edge	Sat 25	17.00	ITV	Granada Television	Football	0.7
17. The Central Match: Gulls Edge	Sat 25	17.30	ITV	Central Television	Football	0.7
18. Grand Prix Highlights	Sun 28	20.10	BBC2	BBC	Motor racing	0.6
19. Sport On Friday	Fri 24	15.05	BBC2	BBC	Composite	0.6
20. Teletext Sport	Sat 25	08.01	CH4	Teletext World	Composite	0.6

SOURCE: Broadcasters' Audience Research Board/Asiatic (01522) 328289 Copyright © 1995. All rights reserved. Reprints/second transmissions not aggregated. Highest editions per week only. Incomplete network transmissions treated (%).

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CINEMA

In an era of idiot comedies, tonight's reminder of Harold Lloyd's genius recalls a time when heroes had brains



BUILDINGS

The decaying steel town of Bilbao is set to transform itself with help from the world's top architects

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC 1

A huge farewell party: Michael Tilson Thomas bows out of the LSO with Mahler's Eighth Symphony



MUSIC 2

Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition brings out the best in pianist Andreas Haefliger

RECITAL

Fully in the picture

Andreas Haefliger
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Gone from gumption to Gump

Once, Hollywood gave us simple heroes who overcame the odds; now, says Geoff Brown, it seems that nothing succeeds like stupidity

When Harold Lloyd leaps on to the screen at Sadler's Wells tonight in the Live Cinema presentation of his delightful comedy *The Kid Brother*, something wonderful will happen.

Not just the miracle that always strikes whenever a great silent film, live orchestral accompaniment and a sympathetic audience come together. Not just the realisation that Lloyd, the most underestimated of Hollywood's silent clowns, is still very funny, and can do much more than cling to a clockface outside a tall building in *Safety Last!*

Not the wonder will lie in the sheer novelty, in this age of *Forrest Gump* and *Dumb and Dumber*, of watching a character with brains.

In *The Kid Brother*, perhaps Lloyd's best film, a beautifully photographed backwoods saga of 1927, his father and brothers, all strapping fellows, consider him a total wimp, and treat him much as the Ugly Sisters treated Cinderella. But an inventive mind whirls behind the glasses and dangling limbs. He whisks the family laundry in a butter churn, and dries it on a clothes line fixed to a kite. Using a fish net, he washes dishes without wetting his hands, and lets a hot stove do the drying. The same ingenuity is put to work seeing off the Medicine Show strong man who serves as chief villain.

The 1920s was the era of the American "go-getter", the young man with pep and ambition, eager to get ahead in business and win the boss's daughter. Lloyd fits the mould better than any other comedian. He overcomes odds and

succeeds. When things go awry for Lloyd, and for his contemporary Buster Keaton, you can blame chance, bad luck or the character's blinkered vision, never his outright stupidity.

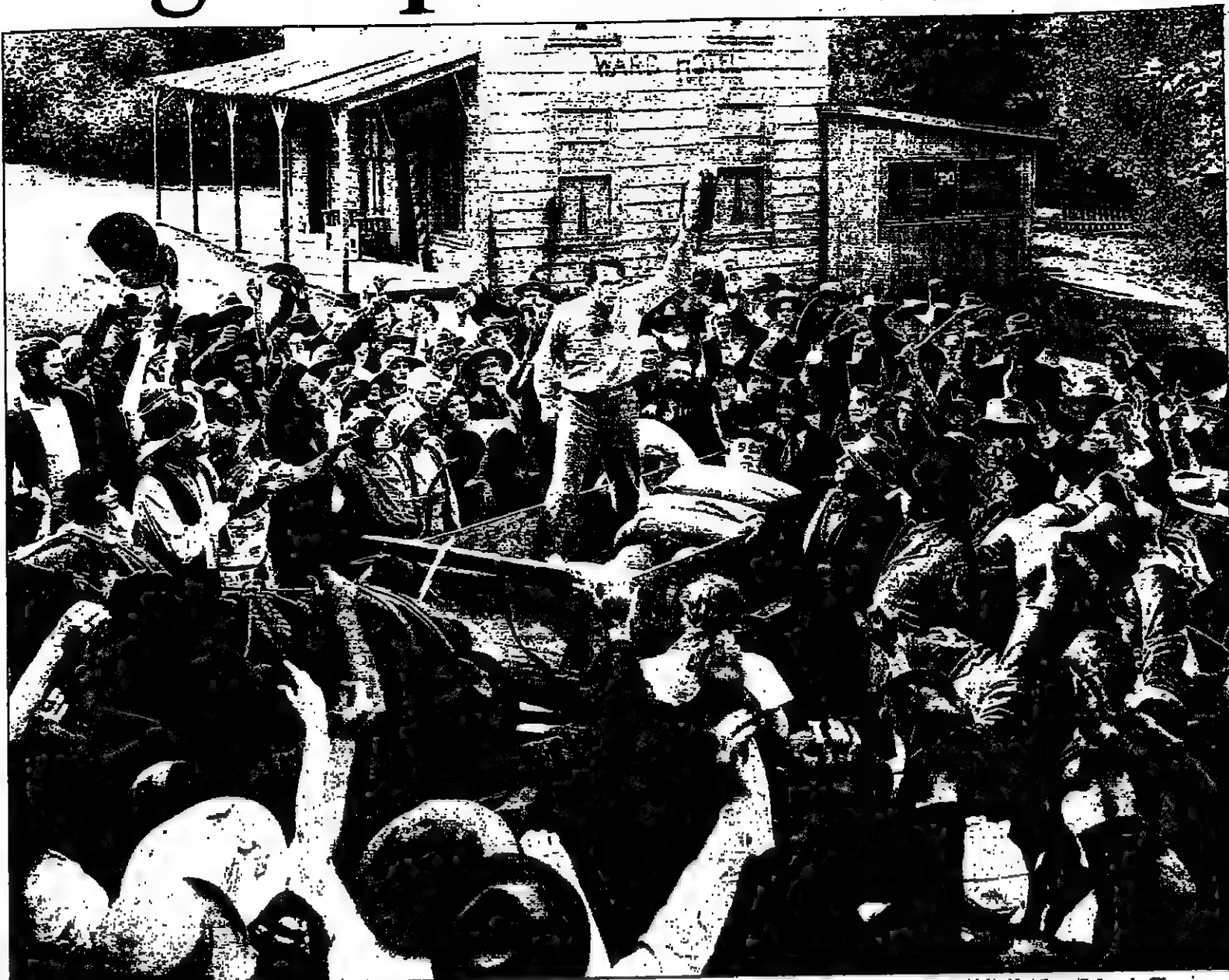
Now look around you. In *Dumb and Dumber*, Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels — whose characters are called Harry and Lloyd — are locked into a perpetual childhood of tag games, practical jokes and dim-witted responses. Bill and Ted, and Wayne and Garth (the *Wayne's World* boys) babble about babes and consumables, shout "Woah!", "Hey!", "No!" and "Party time!", but have nothing else to show for their high school educations.

Negative thinking rules, especially in the young audience

Leslie Nielsen's police lieutenant in the *Naked Gun* films is the ultimate out, a runefield on legs too dunderheaded to spot his own trail of destruction. And over there, on the sidewalk bench,

sits Tom Hanks as Forrest Gump, a vacant look on his face, a fuzzy cliché on his lips and Oscar in his back pocket. Idiot comedy is nothing new. A professor of the genre could escort us back through history from *Dumb and Dumber* and the multiple movies spun off the television sketches on *Saturday Night Live* to the raucous silliness of the Three Stooges, the agonising cross-talk routines of Abbott and Costello, the physical japes of Punch and Judy and the venerable traditions of commedia dell'arte. Given enough time, the professor might trace things back to the world's first slapstick routine: two cavemen hitting each other on the heads with rocks.

Even in the 1920s, when Lloyd, Keaton and other bright lads used resourceful-



Harold Lloyd triumphs over adversity in *The Kid Brother*, a highlight of the current Sadler's Wells Live Cinema series of classic films

ness and a modicum of brawn to rescue heroines, combat cyclones and waterfalls, another silent clown, Harry Langdon, found success by stumbling and blinking through his films like a baby. Keaton himself grew stupid with time: his mediocre MGM sound films, when his character's IQ seems in single figures, were far more popular with the public than the sophisticated favourites we revere today, like *The General* or *The Navigator*. The idiot strain, then, has always been present, and has

always got results. But the current boom in cinema stupidity surely signifies something more than the periodic return of a favourite formula while audiences drift away from the cerebral musings of Woody Allen: why else would America clutch to its bosom a thin, overlong piece of whimsy such as *Forrest Gump*?

We must look to the temper of the times. In the 1920s Lloyd operated in a world where the hard-work ethic still had meaning. People had goals and liked to watch heroes winning. But what contempo-

rary comic character wants to succeed in business? Negative thinking rules, especially among the young audiences targeted by Hollywood movies: since no amount of knowledge, intelligence or achievement can guarantee a job, why not act dumb and party on?

And, with the world such a complex and dangerous place, *Forrest Gump* offers the attractions of a nursery retreat, where the innocent hero can live through the worst of post-war America and emerge unscathed, replete with wealth,

happiness and family values. There is comfort in this, especially for baby boomers growing conservative in their old age.

The overwhelming vice of idiot comedy is, of course, its idiosyncrasy. If your mind is not cooked at the right angle, the avalanche of stupid remarks, juvenile pranks and biffs on the head can be awfully wearing. You emerge from the cinema with no hope for civilisation.

The saving grace, not always visible, is the films' sweet-tempered disposition.

The jokes may involve physical pain, but there is no malice towards others with Wayne and Garth, or the idiots of *Dumb and Dumber*.

And, wrapped in their magic cloak of innocence, today's comic heroes still survive unharmed, still come up smiling, like the ingenious Lloyd in *The Kid Brother*. They just choose a different route.

● *The Kid Brother*, with a score by Carl Davis, played by the Guildford Philharmonic, will be shown at Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (071-278-8910), tonight and tomorrow.

Away with the grime of decay

ARCHITECTURE: Spectacular new buildings will transform unlovely Bilbao, as Marcus Binney reports

The Spanish city of Bilbao has carried off the arts coup of the decade, arguably as significant as Madrid's victory in snatching the Thyssen collection from London. Against all the odds, the decaying Basque steel town — hitherto known to the world mainly through its football team — is to become the European arm of New York's Guggenheim collection. While the Venice Guggenheim is a museum in its own right, the purpose of the Bilbao museum will be to show the whole of the New York collection in rotation every 20 years.

Bilbao secured the deal against fierce competition from Salzburg by offering an architect guaranteed to produce a museum at least as novel as Frank Lloyd Wright's original Guggenheim in New York. From a limited competition, including Japan's Arata Isozaki and Austria's Coop Himmelb(l)au, they selected California's Frank Gehry, whose buildings have virtually abolished right angles and flat walls. He might be working in pastry rather than steel or concrete.

Gehry's models can put the frighteners on construction companies. His £200 million Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles is delayed because the tenders have come in far higher than anyone expected. But in Bilbao they insisted on using local technology and claim the building is on time and on budget and will open in 1997. Clad in titanium steel, it will be dramatically reflected in water on both sides.

Gehry's extravaganzas are one of a series of major public works by top international architects in which the city is

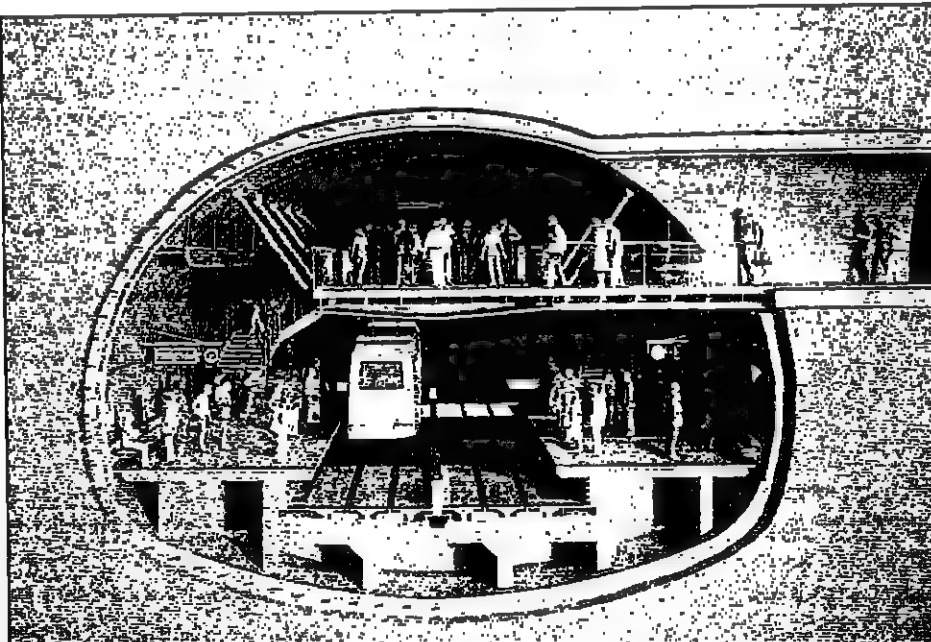
investing a staggering £3 billion, and which are now the subject of a South Bank exhibition in London. The city's mayor says: "Using architects from abroad proves Bilbao is an open city and provides young architects with the opportunity to work with the world's leaders."

Bilbao's new Metro has been designed by Britain's Sir Norman Foster. Costing £450 million for 28 kilometres, it is intended as the last word in user-friendly city travel. Foster's glass-bubble entrances are the shape of frozen head scarves, and are set free-standing in the pavement like the Paris Métro entrances.

In contrast to Paris, however, there are no heavy doors to push your way through. You will descend via escalators on the shortest, straightest possible route to the platforms. According to the Spanish engineers in charge, the wind will never race down the tunnels, as special vertical air vents above the platforms will counteract any winds created by the trains.

Bilbao's first stations will be in service by the end of this year and are as spacious and airy as the Washington Metro. Foster's characteristic clarity is everywhere in evidence. Instead of the usual mixture of cladding, he has simply made the concrete tunnel wall itself so smooth that it can act as the final finish.

The next project is a new airport terminal designed by Santiago Calatrava, with a bird-like swooping roof that rivals his new airport station at Lyons. With this is planned a new £200 million railway



The last word in user-friendly city travel? British architect Sir Norman Foster has put forward a £450 million design for Bilbao's proposed new, 28-kilometre Metro

station designed by Michael Wilford, partner of the late Sir James Stirling. It is as ambitious as any new station in Europe. Despite the staggering cost, Bilbao says that it and the Basque Government can meet the full bill even if the EC doesn't come up with a substantial grant. The new station, with a huge 125-metre roof-span across 12 platforms, will house suburban and long distance trains, with a bus station below.

Bilbao's major investment programme is prompted by the unique status of the Basque region (shared only by Navarre) which allows the Basques to collect their own taxes. "We can decide for ourselves where to invest," the mayor says.

A benefit of Bilbao's strategy is that it heals the wounds left by industrial development and decay, without damaging the character of the city centre. The busy port is being moved out to the coast (it is Spain's top port in terms of tonnage) and the vacated city centre waterfront is intended as Europe's answer to Baltimore. And on the river, beside the new Guggenheim, the city has called in Cesar Pelli to design a new office complex.

Pelli's initial plan for a huge, "Canary Wharf" skyscraper was too much for local politicians who took fright at the idea that an international company might take the tower, put up its own name in lights, and become the symbol of the whole city. Pelli redrew his plans with successively smaller towers, but the question is whether Bilbao needs any towers at all.

Senically, the drama of the city lies in its site at the bottom of a deep bowl of green hills which are visible at the end of every major street. In the 1970s and 1980s, development began to creep up the hills, but this was fortunately stopped as the city simultaneously began to tackle the hideous problems of air and river pollution.

For all the importance of a few flagship modern buildings, the key to catapulting Bilbao up the European league table of attractive cities lies in the harmony of its city streets. The city has one remarkable distinguishing feature: the glazed-in balcony. Sometimes there are more balconies than facades. They rise in vertical ranks up four, five or six storeys and repeat

every few yards, and they come in all styles — Baroque, Classical and Art Nouveau.

The city has a grant programme encouraging owners to clean up facades, and decades of industrial grime is being washed away to reveal an explosion of colour, not just stone or stucco but every shade of brick the industrial revolution had to offer. The old quarter around the cathedral is freshly painted and alive with attractive bars, restaurants and shops. And across the river, a substantial start has been made on numerous streets full of richly ornate turn-of-the-century and 1920s apartment blocks.

Bilbao aspires to be the Basque counterpart of Barcelona. True, it has neither Gaudi nor the blue Mediterranean. And whether all its ambitious plans will be completed by the millennium must be in doubt. But as a determined effort to reverse industrial decay, improve the quality of life and attract visitors, Bilbao's scheme is an example to industrial cities across northern Europe.

● An exhibition, *Bilbao 2000*, is being shown in the foyer of the Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1, until May 29.

Hail and farewell

LSO/Tilson Thomas
Albert Hall

THIS concert was a grand finale in two senses. First, it represented the end of the London Symphony Orchestra's two-stage Mahler cycle, which has been a magnificent revelation of Michael Tilson Thomas's appetite for the composer's music. Secondly, it was in essence Tilson Thomas's farewell party as he relinquishes his post as the LSO's principal conductor — there are still one or two dates left — for a similar job in San Francisco.

The Eighth Symphony was the right work, and the Albert Hall, for all its deficiencies, the right place for it. Though the sight and sound of it is massive, Mahler's ecstatic welcoming of redemption is essentially a spiritual and private experience. After his joyous setting of the words of the ancient hymn *Veni creator spiritus* and his magical realisation of the later stages of Goethe's *Faust*, I wanted only to sit quietly for a while. Not so the rest of this audience.

It is easy to forget that the Eighth is a carefully, exquisitely coloured work. But in a reading that went by in a flash Tilson Thomas was at pains to allow us to hear detail: the seraphic sound of piano, celeste and harps near the end; for instance, and the mysterious shimmers of cymbals which signal the high, harmonically disruptive sustained notes in the hushed, slow opening section to the second movement.

But he is not one to ignore purely physical impact either, and here he used the available spaces well. Up in the gallery on one side was placed a brass band; on the other, bathed in a spotlight, the soprano Lynda Russell, radiant in the part of the Mater Gloriosa.

Her two earthbound soprano colleagues, Alessandra Marc and Nancy Gustafson, were both slightly disappointing, Marc adopting an over-enthusiastic approach to what is an oratorio demanding an

aura of humility. That quality the truly contraltos (Katarina Dalayman and Nathalie Stutzmann), and the fine tenor, baritone and bass soloists (Thomas Moser, Anthony Michaels-Moore and Peter Rose), all managed without skimping on characterisation.

A massively augmented London Symphony Chorus and the bright-toned Southend Boys' Choir sang with just and discipline, their rhythms generally taut, their intonation and sturdiness of tone even of the high tenors, right faultless. And there was the orchestra, exulting in its own confidence and finesse. When he packs his bags and collects the international conductor's equivalent of his P45, Tilson Thomas will leave, in the secure knowledge that his tenure has had a profound effect. Long may it last.

STEPHEN PETTIT

Haefliger: a fine control of keyboard technique

Schubert's Impromptu he afterwards played as an encore. Haefliger returned to Schubert after having previously played the four Impromptus of D935 in the main part of his programme with what can best be called digital finesse. There was a combination of delicacy and dexterity at his fingertips, and each piece was touched by a wonderful poetry of feeling and imagination. Such features as the crossing of hands in the first of them were finely judged, in texture and balance, and romantic ardour was tempered by harmonic awareness.

At the outset of the programme, the first of Beethoven's piano sonatas, Op 2 No. 1, drew a sense of classical proportion from the pianist. His clarity of articulation at the keyboard was sustained with a lively, buoyant rhythm, and only a bland, minimalist movement diminished the otherwise vigorous spirit that propelled the music.

NOEL GOODWIN

GO COVENT GARDENING

THE TIMES
THEATRE
CLUB

Victoria
valuab



THEATRE 1
With translators like Ranjit Bolt around, classic plays are getting a spirited kick in the vernacular



THEATRE 2
The verdict on the Irish *Uncle Vanya* with Stephen Rea has to be 'pale but interesting'

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE 3
A shameful episode in British imperial history is the subject-matter of *Dusky Warriors* at Stratford East



THEATRE 4
Cheeky repartee and physical zest that's right off the wall: the Gate gives Goldoni a ebullient revival

Classics up-to-date turn the air blue ... cold-hearted Chekhov ... 24-carat Goldoni ... incomplete history lesson

Pardon my French, Molière

Translations into the language of the streets are giving new life to the classics, says **Benedict Nightingale**

It is not the least unusual to hear four-letter words at the National, but you still don't expect them to come thudding from the mouths of characters, even half-mad characters. In 2500-year-old plays, Cassandra in *The Trojan Women* has, however, broken this duck (or taboo). In Gilbert Murray's famous translation Euripides has her view of the Greeks as: "One love, one woman's beauty, o'er the track of hunted Helen, made their myriads fall". At the Olivier the words are: "For one woman's sake, one ****, they hunted Helen, squandered a million lives."

The translator responsible, Kenneth McLeish, is turning up all over the place just now. He has brought a new boldness and, at times, brilliance to a Greek drama. At the Gate Orestes has yelled "bastard!" at Menelaus. At the Lyric, Hammersmith, Ion has greeted evidence of his divine origins with a Californian "wow!". At the Young Vic Oedipus's subjects have not wordily ululated about pestilence and pollution, but bluntly declared: "There's cancer in the city, malignant, diagnosed."

If McLeish seems to be the extreme case, it is because he is translating plays we still associate with thespians in archaic costumes prancing round Doric columns. But Jeremy Sams's work on Molière and Ranjit Bolt's on Corneille display equal daring. And last year the dramatist Frank McGuinness gave the Barbican a *Peer Gynt* in which the Troll King boasted that "our



cows shit cakes and our bulls piss wine" and Peer described an Arab dancer as "a tasty bit of meat, that girlie".

This is not wholly new. In a *Cherry Orchard* back in 1977 another playwright, Trevor Griffiths, translated the vener-

able Fire's riposte to an uppy fellow-servant not as "Eh, you're daft", but as, "Up yours, bumerballs!". In 1973 Tony Harrison, who take to be Sams's and Bolt's inspiration, put Molière's *Misanthrope* into witty modern couplets. But those were exceptions. Now a racy colloquialism is becoming the norm when classics of any time or clime are staged.

Is this to be welcomed? If you look at some of the translations in the past, you may well think so. Granville

Barker defied anyone to deliver T. Weber's version of the hope Nora expresses at the end of Ibsen's *Doll's House* — "that cohabitation between you and me might become a matrimony" — without making the audience laugh. But Barker asked his own actors to

speak some pretty cumbersome stuff when he produced Euripides. Confronted with his dead father's aged servant, any Orestes would find it easier to articulate McLeish's

"Who's this old relic, whose side is he on?" than Gilbert Murray's "Prithce, what man of all the King trusted of old is now this broken thing?"

But accessibility cannot be the only criterion. Fidelity to the original author's style, personality and meaning mat-

ters as much or more. And here new complications arise, for there is often something ineluctably foreign about all three. What does a translator do with those subtle cultural references that echo in one language and clunk in another?

Michael Frayn, whose knowledge of Russian and talent for drama have combined to do wonders for Chekhov, goes so far as to say there is no such thing as translation: only adaptations that compromise their originals to a greater or lesser degree.

Some err by compromising not at all. In a German production of one of Simon Gray's plays a character reputedly appeared covered in crumbling loam. Why? Someone was showing too much respect for a stage direction reading: "He enters, completely plastered." But these days the main danger is of erring the other way. Bolt describes

all translation as "transformation", and has engagingly admitted taking large liberties when texts are too little known to provoke a backlash. Sams, too, has said he reinvents rhythms and metaphors in the hope of "making a play sound as if it could have been written in English", but insists he tries to retain its spirit and respect its author's aims.

This may be a step too far for some theatregoers. Extreme verbal updating may be another. It is clearly right to shun what Sams calls transliterate ("Oh father, today is my name day") and probably right to avoid 17th-century pastiche for Molière or Racine. On the other hand, a 19th-century gentleman would hardly tell a financier to "put your chickens off where the monkey put his nuts", as he does in one translation of Chekhov's *Platonov*. Perhaps the answer is the sort of unostentatious modern English you find in Frayn's *Cherry*

Orchard or Michael Meyer's versions of the great Scandinavian writers.

Yet Meyer, the doyen of British translators, recently felt impelled to spruce up his published version of Strindberg's *Dance of Death* for the Almeida,

dropping a date reference to "mature and roundly describing an offstage character as a 'barrowload of shit'". And Bolt's version of Molière's *George Dandin*, currently being performed at the Cohan,

is full of phrases like "go ahead", "jealous old git", "threw a wobbly", "silly sod" and "gave me a bollocking". Does the gain in immediacy and, presumably, relevance justify the loss of period decorum? It is a good question.

Finally, enough, shag is easier to defend in the case of Euripides, for his contemporaries saw him as outrageous by "anti-heroic". In Aristophanes' *Frogs* he comes onstage to bicker with Aeschylus, who accuses him of turning

into a great near-making them talk like "half-educated demagogue asses". If McLeish deserves criticism, it is probably more for cutting, condensing and occasionally shifting the meaning than

for making Clytemnestra tell Electra, "You're daddy's girl, not mummy's", or a messenger describe a speaker at Orestes's trial as "a mouth on legs". But when the effect is to revitalise antique work, as it often is, should we criticise at

all? Should we not rather be celebrating a nerve and nerve without which the present state of forgotten plays would never have become so much as a spirit? When you hear Cary, Churchill's version of *Speeches*, or David Hare's *Brutus*, or Hare's *Corneille's* *Cid*, you are in little doubt that with fresh tongue a play can jump the

sees. If I had to pick a personal favourite from the many translations that I have heard of late, it would be Sams's lyrics for *Racine's Theophany*. Soldiers sing helping foreigners meet heroes and of the British army making salami from Laura to Gósta. "Orestes," "Archie Goldstein, was married for his tuffkins and a rye," goes Sams's rewriting of Mac the Knave's song. "The song was full of bursting, strong, that no one knew a thing. Can a translation actually be better than the original? Sometimes

Fidelity to the original author's meaning matters

A fresh tongue can help a play jump the aeons

Everything but the heart

Uncle Vanya
Tricycle, NW6

Jeremy Kingston called Field Day's revival of *Uncle Vanya* "pale" when he reviewed it from Londonderry in February. And though time and touring has brought some colour to its cheeks, the evening as a whole is still lacking in warmth. The intelligence is there, the humour is there, but even the ending, in its way as moving as anything that Chekhov wrote, left my heart unchurned.

You recall what happens. Sonya, who has been definitively rejected by the doctor she loves, sits at the table with her Uncle Vanya, who sees nothing ahead but waste and more waste. He weeps while she talks of patience, endurance, hard work. They start to do the accounts that, side-tracked as they have been by beguiling intruders, they have neglected. "We shall rest," repeats Sonya, meaning that, though they will never achieve happiness here, they will one day find peace in the grave.

So what, if anything, has gone wrong? Zara Turner's beatific smiles at this point do not suggest a Sonya courageously bracing herself for martyrdom. Stephen Rea's Vanya has all along signalled

unrest, turmoil, rather than simple human pain. But the main problem is surely Peter Gill's production, which is now paying the price for its determination, commendable but too rigorous, to avoid any hint of the forlorn autumnal sentimentality that used to mark revivals of Chekhov and once provoked D.H. Lawrence to call him Willy Wetleg.

"This is a mortuary," remarks someone. Well, not quite; but the costumes mostly come in depressing browns and greys. Even the scene-shifters have hats and coats that make them look like extras from the crowd scenes in *The Battleship Potemkin*. And the principals spend a lot of time with their arms folded, or their backs to each other, or nervously perched on spare, stark furniture that itself invariably seems to be placed at severe angles, mostly 90 degrees to the front of the stage.

This austere geometry does of course make it clear that human communication isn't exactly in tip-top supply on the Serebryakov estate, but it tends to distance us in the audience, too. Yet if that means we detachedly admire the performances rather than feel them, at least there is plenty to admire. Kim Thompson unconventionally but rightly sees Sonya's young mother-in-law, Elena, not as an empty idler but as a bright



Gloomy sardonic vowels, a creased, mournful face: Stephen Rea in the title-role of Field Day's *Uncle Vanya*

woman struggling to make sense of an empty, idle world. Dr Astrov, Vanya's rival for her affections, is played by Enda Oates with a bluff, tough assurance that explains his own attractiveness to the opposite sex. Denys Hawthorne, snarling rather than whining, cuts an unusually formidable figure as Elena's spoilt spouse, Serebryakov himself.

Meanwhile, Rea does much to justify his great and growing reputation. Those gloomy sardonic vowel-sounds, that creased, mournful face, even

the droopy black trousers scuffing along the floor all work to suggest a very modern ennui. The famous scene in which Vanya tries and fails to shoot Serebryakov is particularly successful, as Rea runs raging and cackling somewhere between brain-fever and nervous breakdown. He gives us the character's desperation and absurdity, sometimes both at once. Why not a little pathos too?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Skin-deep view of races at war

Dusky Warriors
Theatre Royal, Stratford East

Hospital became prison and, as treatment grew harsher, paradise turned to hell.

The evidence for all this emerged from a vast store of censored letters and protests in the archives of the Imperial War Museum. They would make a sombre and fascinating book.

Unfortunately, Nasser Memarzia and Kulvinder Ghir have not created from this shameful business an evening of gripping drama. When they show their soldiers incredulous at the sight of white men digging roads, or white women — memsahibs — working in bakeries, the play comes to life. We share their astonishment and delight.

But to focus on the bar against fraternisation they introduce a pair of star-crossed lovers, and though the character of the soldier is written fairly capably and played decently

enough by Ashok Kumar, that of the girl (Janet Bazford) is sketchily put together. Presumably the archives failed to suggest the voice and feelings of a white woman of the period.

Again, the authors set up an issue and promptly forget it. An ignorant nurse cuts a soldier's hair, his fellows wail in protest at this affront, but when the soldier wakes he never alludes to it.

I am sorry to sound so down on a play based on such original material, but without dramatic energy even the murkiest can of worms will become just one damned worm after another.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Charming show of youthful ardour

The Lovers
Gate, Wil

This is a zesty, zany little affair. Goldoni's young lovers, Eugenio and Fulgenzio, have tiffs like there's no tomorrow. When he is not throttling her with his hanky, she is snottily giving him the cold shoulder. The pair of them are in perfectly horrid jealous strops.

Eugenio (Nicola Walker) whistles about like a wide-busted infant; terrible, an imminent slump in those dainty ballet slippers; brittle and deadpan, but with a huge invisible pout hanging over her like a cloud.

Eugenio storms out of the multi-coloured, slightly skew-whiff standing door, twitchily testy about Fulgenzio's courties to his sister-in-law, whom he is honour-bound to chaperone around during his brother's absence.

Fulgenzio (absurdly Spanish David Sant, twizzly moustachios included) jets off stage with a currently exasperated spring in his step. Everybody bounces in 18th-century Milan, where the welcome mats are mini-trampolines.

Fulgenzio himself is frantically hot under his trilly collar about a rival suitor. Stephen Harper's Count lands in cravat and teddy-boy creepers, cocks an eyebrow at the audience and swishes his red silk coat, fancying himself a toreador for the ladies. He leans coolly on a chair which collapses into smithereens. There are dozens of wonderfully off-the-wall moments in Rosana Silbert's production.

Still, the script, made for

commedia clowning, is this far, even if Lawrence Boswell's adaptation is lively and the play lightly strikes a chord about lovers' rows and petty revenge.

A fair bit of the company's physical silliness does not come off, and characters' swings of mood could be tightened. But Walker (who is only playing in certain performances) is acutely funny, ably supported by Abigail Duly as her sister.

Even if the set does not convey that their gal-lumping uncle (Darren Tunstall) is strapped for cash, the show's resourcefulness has enough delights. Messengers scurry on the spot, as small trees on a stick whizz by repeatedly.

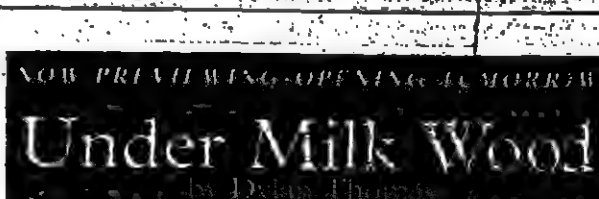
The uncle, alone on stage ruminating eagerly on how marriageable his nieces are, points to a couple of suddenly-appearing gilt frames. Walker and Duly pop up from their side seats and stick their heads in for portraits. The young cast sometimes make this seem like a student production. Goldoni's old geezers hardly look due for a pension.

Yet it is the wacky zip of Silbert's crew, and their cheeky repartee with the audience, which gives the evening its lively charm.

KATE BASSETT



Cheeky repartee: Darren Tunstall and Stephen Harper in Lawrence Boswell's adaptation of Goldoni's comedy



Now private wing-opening tomorrow



THE discovery of a particularly nasty episode in our imperial history inspired the writing of this play. Nearly one and a half million Indian soldiers fought for the British during the First World War. A quarter of a million died, but some of the injured found themselves in this country, where a hospital was established for them inside, of all unlikely buildings, the Brighton Pavilion.

In one of the arresting moments of Jeff Teare's production, his last here as associate director, hospital beds are wheeled on to the stage at the same time as one of George IV's mad Indo-Chinese chandeliers descends from above. Small wonder that the fortunate survivors of the Lahore

THE COURT OF APPEALS
Employment
If defendant not to give
Housing
Life sentence

Applying proviso after provocation omission

**THROUGH
TIMES**

[illegible]

COURAGE
FIRST XV

THE LEADING

THE LEADING 20 FISH

Running rings round Christie and Wagner

Call me a philistine, call me Forrest Gump, but in an evening requiring a choice between Linford Christie, Richard Wagner or Jerzy Kosinski, the Olympic and World 100 metres champion wins every time.

Wagner may have had them baying for more at Bayreuth, but he never had an entire nation shouting at their televisions in ten-second bursts of mass patriotism. That left Kosinski, but I was still having trouble working out who he was. Having watched *Bookmark*, I realised I was not alone.

But first, last night's *What Makes Linford Run?* (TV), a curious title for a programme that actually set out to reveal who makes Linford run, his coach of the last 16 years, Rod Roddian. In this it succeeded. We now know that Roddian is (at least in public) a shy but likeable man who lives off a pension and guides the career of the world's greatest sprinter (who

is this Dennis Mitchell anyway? from a former railwayman's cottage in west London).

But in most other respects the programme disappointingly and dispiringly failed. Goodness knows what promises the director, Charles Thompson, had made to gain access to Christie's training sessions, but the price was too high. Objectivity and inquiry were left stranded at the starting blocks.

It was Roddian who provided a clue to the less than revealing nature of what lay ahead. "There's no secret in coaching," he told us: "anyone who says they've got a secret is a liar — all it is is bloody hard work." So no secrets — fine. But there was little evidence of much bloody hard work either. According to this film, the way to become the fastest man on earth is to turn up at the Linford Christie stadium, exchange high fives and laddish banter with your training partners, lope once or

twice down the track and then drive off in your BMW.

There was no sign of the endless gymnasium work that transfigures the still, skinny youth that Roddian remembered into the muscular powerhouse Christie is today. There was no measure of the improvement during the two or three vital years when Roddian finally persuaded Christie to give up partying, buckle down and run. The moment Linford realised he had wings, as Frank Dick picturesquely put it.

Meekly, the programme did not even make an effort to explain Christie's sudden departure to Germany for "secret and expensive treatment" on last season's hamstring injury. This was "out of bounds to the media," what makes Linford shy? I still haven't a clue.

In disappointment and, if I'm honest, out of fear that I might one



Matthew Bond

day get stuck in a lift with Bernard Levin, I turned to *Wagner v Wagner* (Channel 4). This turned out to be a sort of incoherent *Just a Minute* with Gotfried Wagner vigorously accusing his granddaughters of anti-Semitism. Now even I, a man who for years thought that *Parsifal* was something you found in your herb rack, am vaguely aware that this is well-trodden territory. It was also

something of a challenge. For this was shamelessly elitist television. If you didn't know the basic plots of *Parsifal*, *Die Meistersinger* and the entire Ring cycle, you were seriously stuck. A pretty firm grasp of the Wagner family tree would also have come in handy, with Gotfried happily tossing in first names and explaining them some ten minutes later. Who was this Winifred? Turned out to be his grandmother, a woman adored by Hitler and who later told her grandson that the Holocaust was a lie promulgated by New York Jews. The Wagner boys? They included his father; a member, said his son, of the generation who preferred evasion to outright denial.

More than once, Gotfried Wagner's engaging showman persona, graced with the archive horrors that the director, Richard Bond, laid before us. And what, in his revisionist enthusiasm, the great-

grandson left out, other Wagnerians filled in. The composer's anti-Semitism was indisputable, they said. "He thought there was no greater way to convey his strong views on the subject than through these very powerful works of art."

Such a persuasive programme had two unforeseen consequences. At a stroke it rendered very unfunny indeed the dedication that preceded the otherwise amusing programme that followed, *The Ring Reduced* — "to the memory of those brave men and women who lost their lives in the performance of the Ring cycle". And it brought a new resonance to *Sex, Lies and Jerzy Kosinski* (BBC 2), *Bookmark's* portrait of the enigmatic Polish writer best known for writing *Being There* and committing suicide in 1991, apparently haunted by images of the Holocaust that he had witnessed as a child. Or had he?

The producer, Agnieszka Piotrowska, had certainly assembled a celebrity circle of friends and critics. From President Reagan's former security adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, to Roman Polanski and Erica Jong. But what she curiously set out to prove was that Kosinski, a Jew born in Lodz, had not suffered as his novel *The Painted Bird* suggested, but had spent the war hidden with his family in the Polish countryside. She'd even rounded up some grumpy Polish peasants to prove it.

The film was cleverly crafted, visually arresting and, while controversial, balanced. Unhappy about disingenuousness between degrees of suffering from 50 years on, I preferred the pragmatic views of "Max," the character who wasn't a little wandering child. But he felt like a little wandering child — that was all you needed to know."

● Lynne Truss is on holiday.

- BBC1**
- 8.00 *Business Breakfast* (30744)
 7.00 *BBC Breakfast News* (3154743)
 9.05 *Sweet Kate's* (i) (3021116) 9.25 *Why Don't You...?* 7. *Entertainers* (i) (3222638)
 10.00 *News* (Ceefax), regional news and weather (302578) 10.05 *EastEnders* — *The Early Days* (i) (Ceefax) (4336611)
 10.35 *Good Morning with Anne and Nick*, *Weekday Goodness* (i) (3882218)
 12.00 *News* (Ceefax), regional news and weather (3035541) 12.05 *Football* (i) (2969270) 12.55 *Regional News and Weather* (3018744)
 1.00 *One O'Clock News* (Ceefax) (i) (3035566) 1.30 *Neighbours* (Ceefax) (i) (30894102)
 1.50 *Going for Gold*, The debutant Henry Kelly with another round of the general knowledge quiz with European contestants (i) (3085218) 2.15 *Alles Smith and Jones*, Lighthearted western series starring Pete Dinklage and Ben Murphy (i) (3018322)
 3.05 *Murphy's*, Glynis Christie, *Entertaining* (i) (3009381) 3.20 *Prue Leith's* *Tricks of the Trade*, How to choose fruit (i) (4273831)
 3.30 *Cartoon* (3048299) 3.45 *The Animals of Farthing Wood* (i) (Ceefax) (i) (3085947) 4.10 *Chippin' Up*, Go to the Movies (i) (7332744) 4.35 *The Boot Street Band* (i) (Ceefax) (i) (3108557)
 5.00 *Newsround* (4950639) 5.10 *Blue Peter* (Ceefax) (i) (7519522)
 5.35 *Neighbours* (i) (Ceefax) (i) (3025980)
 6.00 *Six O'Clock News* (Ceefax) and weather (367)
 6.30 *Regional news magazines* (347)
 7.00 *This is Your Life* presented by Michael Aspel (Ceefax) (i) (1788)
 7.30 *Here and Now*, Current affairs magazine (831)
 8.00 *Heart of Gold*, More news of acts of courage and kindness (Ceefax) (i) (303980)
 8.30 *Points of View* (Ceefax) (i) (304676)
 8.55 *Party Political Broadcast* by the Conservative Party (Ceefax) (303947)
 9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* (Ceefax), regional news and weather (3633)
 9.30 *Harry*, The lugubrious newshound sniffs an exclusive when a child is kidnapped. Starring Michael Elphick (Ceefax) (i) (303947)
 10.20 *Capital*, presented by Desmond Lynam, includes highlights of tonight's FA Cup semi-final replay between Manchester United and Crystal Palace, tonight's amateur boxing finale from Birmingham and a preview of the Embassy world snooker championship (i) (1428560)
 11.50 *Words from Jerusalem*, The Easter story in Bible readings by Sir John Gielgud (i) (377631)
 12.05am *FILM: The Doberman Gang* (1972) starring Byron Maize. Incoherent gang of burglars who decide to train a group of ferocious dogs to do their work for them. Directed by David Chudnow (1708972)
 1.30 *Weather* (3791300)



Michael Elphick smells a scoop (9.30pm)

- 9.30 *Harry*, The lugubrious newshound sniffs an exclusive when a child is kidnapped. Starring Michael Elphick (Ceefax) (i) (303947)
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 1.30 *Weather* (3791300)

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

- As London except: 1.05 *A Country Practice* (303947) 1.25 *Home and Away* (303947) 2.00 *30 Rock* (303947) 2.15 *Home and Away* (303947) 2.30 *30 Rock* (303947) 2.45 *Home and Away* (303947) 3.00 *30 Rock* (303947) 3.15 *Home and Away* (303947) 3.30 *30 Rock* (303947) 3.45 *Home and Away* (303947) 4.00 *30 Rock* (303947) 4.15 *Home and Away* (303947) 4.30 *30 Rock* (303947) 4.45 *Home and Away* (303947) 5.00 *30 Rock* (303947) 5.15 *Home and Away* (303947) 5.30 *30 Rock* (303947) 5.45 *Home and Away* (303947) 6.00 *30 Rock* (303947) 6.15 *Home and Away* (303947) 6.30 *30 Rock* (303947) 6.45 *Home and Away* (303947) 7.00 *30 Rock* (303947) 7.15 *Home and Away* (303947) 7.30 *30 Rock* (303947) 7.45 *Home and Away* (303947) 8.00 *30 Rock* (303947) 8.15 *Home and Away* (303947) 8.30 *30 Rock* (303947) 8.45 *Home and Away* (303947) 9.00 *30 Rock* (303947) 9.15 *Home and Away* (303947) 9.30 *30 Rock* (303947) 9.45 *Home and Away* (303947) 10.00 *30 Rock* (303947) 10.15 *Home and Away* 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WEDNESDAY APRIL 12 1995

Semi-finalists must present united front after death of supporter

Clubs fail to lead by example

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

A SUPPORTER has died, his game plays on. Tonight, at Villa Park, just four days after Paul Nixon, a Crystal Palace supporter, was killed in a violent eight miles from the same ground, the FA Cup semi-final between Palace and Manchester United takes place. It has the prospect of extremes.

There is the potential of the thrilling human story of Rhys Wilmot, 33, stepping into the Palace goal for his first full 90 minutes in their colours, his first full match in more than two seasons, and, by far, the greatest challenge of his often suppressed goalkeeping career.

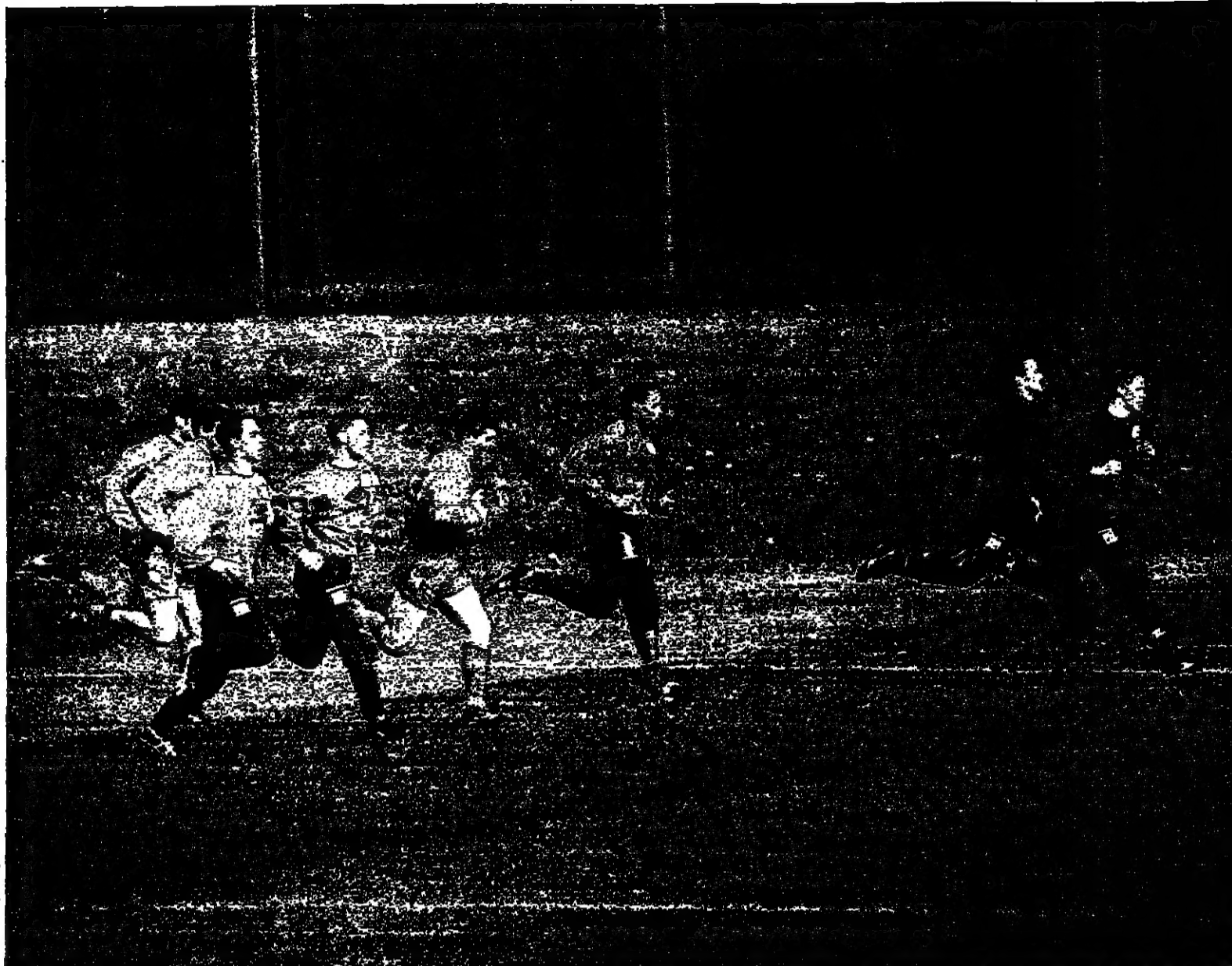
Alas, it is overshadowed by the rumblings of dire consequences that ensue from the inability of the two sides to put on a united front, to go to this semi-final in at least a semblance of "togetherness" among men who play the game or, if you like, share the business of football.

Before the kick-off tonight, Alex Ferguson and Alan Smith, the managers of United and Palace, will take to the field and urge the supporters to behave. If that is necessary, if the shock and the shame of Sunday have not already deeply affected the behaviour of those who attend, then it may be too late. It is, in any case, too little.

How wretched that the two clubs could not co-ordinate throughout yesterday and that the Football Association did not have the foresight to get them together to ensure that, once the West Midlands Police had decided it was best for the game to go ahead, without postponement, no acrimony could emerge.

Alas, though, the joint appeal by the managers is at the behest of Launceston Gate, Colin Noades, a director of Crystal Palace and the brother of its chairman, has spent much of the past 24 hours informing the situation.

Noades took it upon himself to call for what amounts to a boycott of the replay by Palace supporters. He predicted that fewer than 4,000 will travel from London, compared to the 15,000 who attended the 2-2



The Manchester United players in training yesterday before the FA Cup semi-final replay at Villa Park tonight. Photograph: Chris Louffe

draw on Sunday. He voiced his annoyance that the FA did not attempt to overrule the police wishes, adding: "For every 100 of our supporters, only one believes the game should be played. They have life in perspective, even if the FA has not."

Noades has scant appreciation of what it takes to police such a volatile event. He should know better, because it is a general rule that the police require ten days' notice to recruit sufficient staff and to

co-ordinate strategy. In any case, who has a finger on the pulse of social disorder better, a club director or the assistant chief constable of a police force?

"It is best that the game is played sooner rather than later," Clive Roche, the West Midlands assistant chief constable, said. "We appreciate the tensions will be high, but we don't think the situation will be improved by delaying the match."

However, Noades said: "We believe it is long overdue for Manchester United to make a statement concerning their supporters' activities and to take the necessary action."

What should have hap-

pened was that Martin Edwards, the United chairman, and Ron Noades, the proper spokesman for Palace, should have spoken chairman to chairman and agreed to speak the same public language.

As it happens, two younger men, Steve Bruce and Gareth Southgate, the captains of the clubs, have come closer to a common plea. Both have effectively asked that, now that the replay is upon us, the supporters of both sides forgo any notion of violence, go to the stadium to try to enjoy the game and, in the words of Southgate, "We should dedicate this replay to the memory of the gentleman who died. We want to lift his family. It is up to us to do what we can to

restore things for them." It is a tall order, but from a young sportsman more acceptable as a sentiment than the bickering of older directors.

Speaking of age, Wilmot will not thank anyone for pointing out that he passed 33 some time ago, or that it is 15 years since he left his native Newport and became an apprentice at Arsenal. He had obvious pedigree, representing Wales at youth and under-21 levels, yet under-studying Pat Jennings and John Lukic, he was granted nine games in nine years for Arsenal, one of them a cup tie at Villa Park.

Obligated by the quality of goalkeepers at Highbury to move on, he joined Plymouth

Argyle, played 116 times for them, and then went to Grimsby Town, where, after one full season, he fell prey to a prolonged injury that wasted more of his sporting prime for the whole of last season.

Palace paid £80,000 to buy him at the start of this season and, for all but three minutes of a match away to Nottingham Forest, he has sat idly on the bench watching Nigel Martyn, with some heroic form, ensuring that nobody replaced him in the Palace line-up.

On Sunday, however, Martyn broke a bone in his hand and so in comes Wilmot, a man who has merely suffered the loss of a year through disc trouble.

YACHTING 42

INSPIRED VICTORY FOR
WOMEN'S CREW
IN AMERICA'S CUPHartson put on
hold as Wales
wait for fixtures
to take toll

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

JOHN HARTSON, the young Arsenal forward, has been left in international limbo for Wales's trip to Germany for their European championship group seven qualifying match in Düsseldorf on April 26. He has been dropped from the squad and placed on stand-by, but has been selected for the Wales Under-21 party for their game against Germany Under-21 in Wuppertal on April 25.

Hartson, 20, will not know his fate until Mike Smith, the manager, has completed fitness checks on his squad after the congested FA Cup Premier League and Eusebio Insurance League programmes of the week before. Although the Premier League has a free weekend before the Germany match, the Eusebio League continues and five of the 18-strong squad — Kit Symons, of Portsmouth, Adrian Williams, of Reading, Mark Penbridge, of Derby County, and Roger Freestone and John Cornforth, of Swansea City — are likely to be needed by their clubs. Smith has followed the example of the Northern Ireland manager, Bryan Hamilton, by deciding not to invoke the five-day rule before the trip to Germany.

It is likely that Smith will wait until the last moment before deciding in which line-up Hartson will appear. Although he made an encouraging debut in the 3-1 defeat against Bulgaria in Sofia last month, the return of Ian Rush, from injury, and Mark Hughes, from suspension, has blocked his path.

"John did well against Bulgaria and he will get a game in Germany," Smith said. "It remains to be seen for which team, but it seems more sensible to do it this way. With Ian and Mark coming back, it was always going to be a bit awkward."

Hartson was aware of the predicament that could face Smith, even as he assessed his display in the immediate aftermath of Sofia. "It was great to get my first cap and I really enjoyed it," he said. "I know that Ian and Mark could be back for Germany and that would be a bit of a shame for me, but I fully understand the situation."

Williams and Penbridge

return to the senior squad while Karl Raddy, the Queens Park Rangers defender, is also included in Smith's plans. "I have been impressed by Karl's versatility," he said.

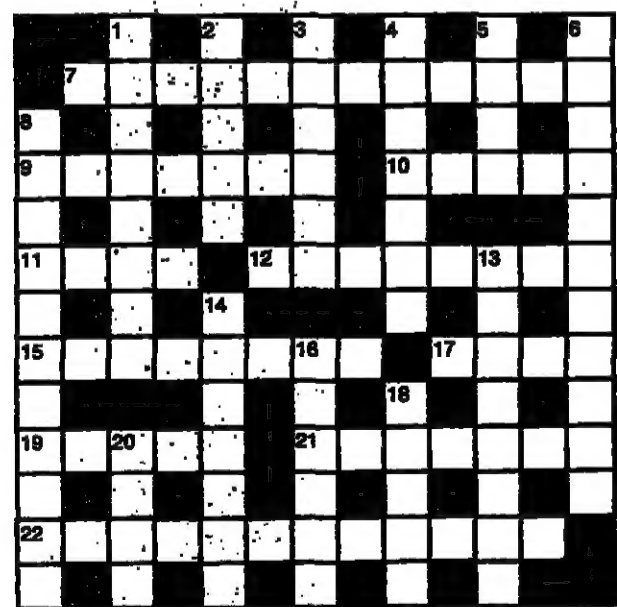
Wales, bottom of the six strong group, may not pose too much of a threat to Germany, who share the leadership with Bulgaria after collecting four successive victories. However, Bert Vogts, the Germany coach, vividly remembers the 1-0 win by Wales in the countries' European championship qualifying game in Cardiff in June 1991.

"Wales are not the team their position in the group suggests," Vogts said. "They will want to worry us a bit and they have done that before. They know that a win or draw will do a lot for their image."

The board of Exeter City, the troubled Exe Valley Insurance League third division club, has put the club up for sale with an asking price of £750,000. Exeter, second from bottom in the table, are £1.2 million in the red but are hoping to clear those debts by selling their St James' Park ground for a housing development. The money would pay off a number of creditors, including the Professional Footballers' Association.

Vogts has selected a provisional squad of 22, which will be reduced to 18 after the Bundesliga fixtures on April 22. It will include Jürgen Klinsmann, the Tottenham Hotspur striker, who scored both goals in Germany's recent 2-0 victory in Georgia. When Wales visited the former Soviet Union state in November, they lost 5-0.

Wales Squad: N. S. Jones (Swansea City), G. Coleman (Crystal Palace), K. Symons (Portsmouth), K. Raddy (Queens Park Rangers), M. Penbridge (Derby County), D. Phillips (Nottingham Forest), B. Hughes (Preston North End), J. Cornforth (Swansea City), R. Freestone (Derby County), C. Symons (Portsmouth), I. Rush (Liverpool), D. Williams (Aston Villa), A. Williams (Reading), M. Penbridge (Derby County), C. Symons (Portsmouth), J. Cornforth (Swansea City), R. Freestone (Derby County), I. Rush (Liverpool), D. Williams (Aston Villa), A. Williams (Reading), M. Penbridge (Derby County).

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 444

ACROSS

- 7 Make bad news galathea (5,3,4)
- 9 A virtue: decorative indoor plant (7)
- 10 Spiced drink: woody type of plant (5)
- 11 Back of neck (4)
- 12 Small circle on circumference of another (8)
- 15 Trespasser (8)
- 17 Jam up (4)
- 19 The language of the New Testament (5)
- 21 Temperature scale ... (7)
- 22 ... 273 degrees on it (8,4)

DOWN

- 1 Meat-rotating kitchenhand (8)
- 2 Expire; mistake (5)
- 3 Put off bedtime (4,2)
- 4 Shylock's daughter (7)
- 5 Row of seats at one level (4)
- 6 Dumbfound (1,1)
- 8 It is done by the penive (8,3)
- 13 Coalmine (8)
- 14 A deceived husband (7)
- 16 Stir up (6)
- 18 Burn fiercely (5)
- 20 Comfortable; compliant; relaxed (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 443

- ACROSS: 1 Came to light, 8 Bagel 9 Gunwale 10 Toll
11 Laureate 13 Dry run 14 Buffet 17 Dampened 19 Knob
22 Linkage 23 Basil 24 See eye to eye

- DOWN: 1 Cabot 2 Magnify 3 Toll 4 Log-jam 5 Generous
6 Tiaras 7 Resent 12 Fuselage 13 Doodle 15 Finesse
16 Merely 18 Mique 20 Belic 21 Abut

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Top clubs propose super league

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHILE rugby league ponders the global implications of its new-found wealth, a super league involving Europe's leading rugby union clubs is now being widely debated. England's elite — Bath and Leicester — hope to convince the Rugby Football Union (RFU) that the concept is not merely a marketing man's dream but a logical extension to the domestic structure, even though the union has ruled it out in the immediate future.

Representatives of the two clubs met on Monday night to prepare a paper and their findings were put before Bath's management committee last night by Richard Mauditt, the chairman. These clubs, alongside Cardiff and Swansea, and Toulouse and Brive, from France — all six held a six-hour meeting at Newbury recently — are the driving force for what is seen initially as a 12-club tournament playing in four pools of three and including Wasps

and Pontypriid, as well as the leading clubs from Scotland, Ireland and Italy.

Stirling County, the Scottish league champions, have discussed the principle and would welcome involvement. They are investing £750,000 in ground development and, like their opposite numbers in England (both Bath and Leicester have embarked, or are about to, on significant building projects), seek to utilise their improved facilities to the full.

As one leading English club chairman said: "Let them hold

the divisional championship by all means, but don't expect our players to appear in it." A European tournament is envisaged in October, either this year or, more likely, next year, with semi-finals and final played before Christmas. The French clubs may be clearer on the proposed dates once their new domestic season has been ratified in Paris tomorrow.

"We haven't shut the door on it, but, at the moment, there is simply no room in the calendar," Dudley Wood, the secretary of the RFU, said

yesterday. "The clubs can't go and play in a European tournament without RFU permission and our aim is to try and balance the aspirations of a very small number of clubs at the top with the rest of the game."

At the same time, Vernon Pugh, the chairman of the Welsh Rugby Union, has warned his country's players of the dangers of jumping on to rugby league's bandwagon. "Players will not struggle for options after the August meeting [on amateurism] of the international board," Pugh said. "After that meeting, a few players will be making a lot of money. We will see a fairly rapid movement in the next few years and my advice to players is to wait and see what comes out of the meeting."

Chris Rea, the former Scotland centre whose voice has been identified with the BBC's rugby commentary over the past 20 years, will be part of the ITV team to cover the World Cup in South Africa this summer.

Legal action possible

SENIOR clubs in England are threatening legal action against the Rugby Football Union (RFU) to counter moves to limit the number of non-England qualified players in the Courage Clubs Championship (Mark Souster writes). Frank Gibson, the chairman of the Senior Clubs Association, criticised "the indecent haste" with which the

proposals were being drawn up, possibly for next season. Gibson said that a handful of first-division clubs had given him authority to seek the opinion of legal counsel on the issues involved. "I have no doubt we will get support from others," he said. "I hope the committee will appreciate that legal action is the last thing the clubs want."



Play the Fantasy First XI cricket game, starting in The Times tomorrow

Mavis makes her mark at last

BEING overtaken by a panto-mime horse, or by a runner dressed as Big Ben, in the Nutcracker London Marathon may be unsettling enough, but imagine how it must feel to be passed by the vehicle removing the blue line which marks the course (David Powell writes). Mavis Lindgren knows that feeling.

Today, The Times publishes the last of the finishers recorded by Unisys, the official suppliers of computers to the race, but that is not quite the end of the story. When the computers shut down, hand-timing takes over, and

Lindgren was the last official finisher.

She would have taken less time than her 9hr 06min 42sec had she not got lost in Docklands after the blue line was erased in front of her. Les Smith, her escort, the race director of the Portland Marathon in the United States, knew most of the route though, apparently, he was confused by Docklands.

It may seem unfathomable to many who completed the distance how anyone could take more than nine hours, but this was Mavis's 88th birthday. She could not resist

the occasional stop to share her celebration with well-wishers. "She went straight from the finish-line to the post-race party and flew home to California the next day," a race spokesman said.

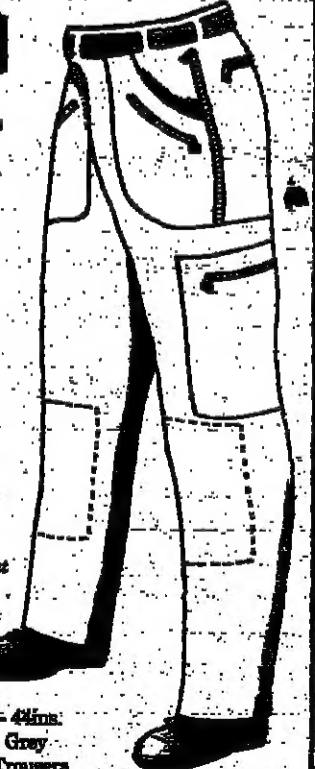
For some there is glory in finishing last, and one entrant is arguing that he should be the official donkey's tail. The marathon, though, is standing its ground: the runner in question started late and, if you want to go into the record books as the last finisher, you simply have to start on time.

Results, pages 38 and 39

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Section 1: How to use the
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Section 2: How to use the
central system in sport